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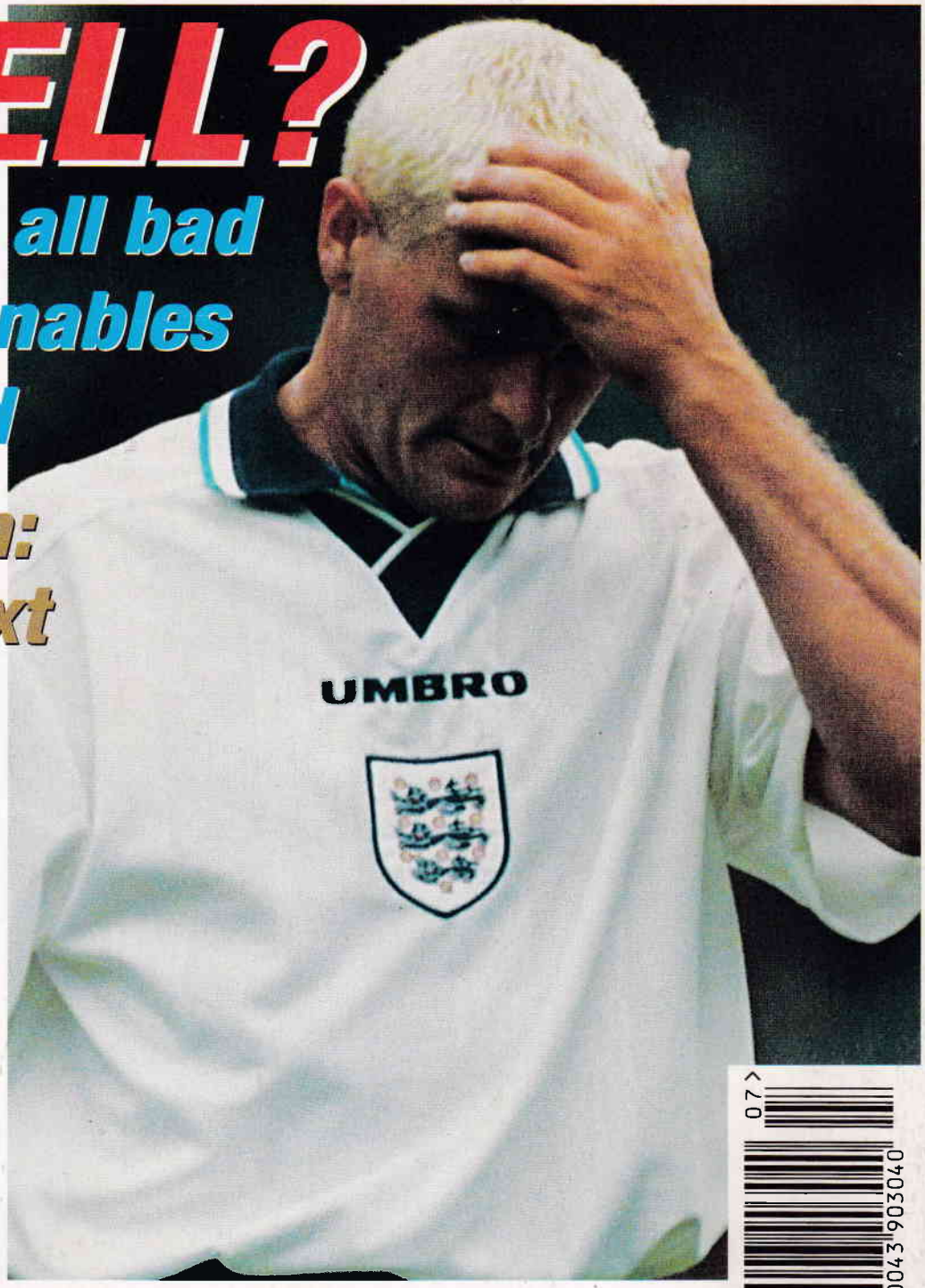
TV HELL?

Why it's not all bad news for Venables and England

Boys to men: Ajax-the next generation



How Juventus did the double

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DUTCH TREAT

Football hasn't seen enough of Ruud Gullit in the last 12 months. A disappointing season in Serie A followed his walk-out on the Dutch World Cup squad. So it came as a pleasant surprise, not least for Chelsea fans, when Glenn Hoddle persuaded the 32-year-old Dutchman to sign for the West London club, who will pay him a staggering £30,000 a week on top of a £1million signing-on fee to display his talents – as sweeper – in the Premier League.

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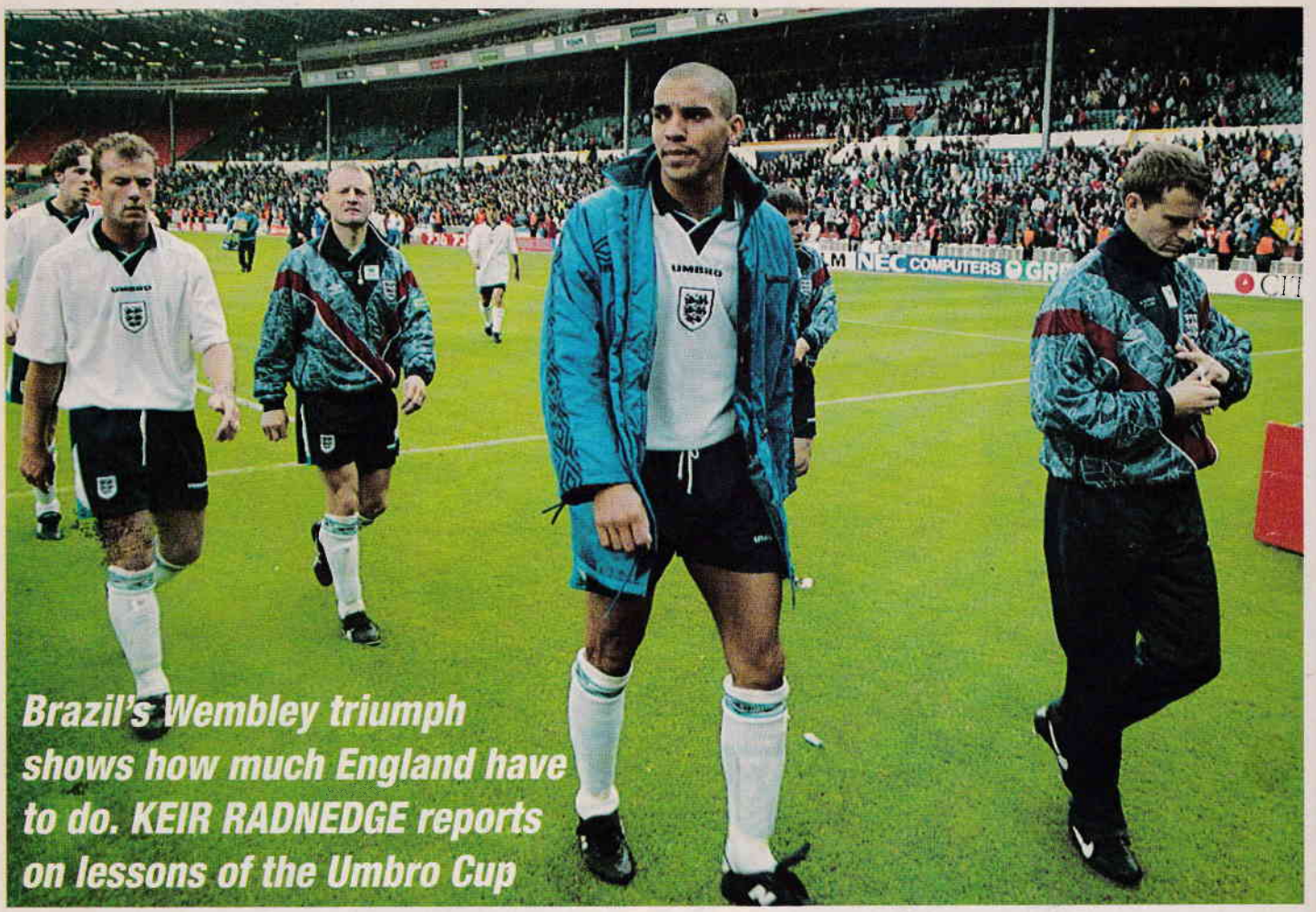


Brazil's Wembley triumph shows how much England have to do. KEIR RADNEDGE reports on lessons of the Umbro Cup

Running out of time?

BRAZIL set themselves up for the Copa America rather better than England set themselves up for Euro '96 as an entertaining and largely successful International Challenge Tournament came to an energetic climax at Wembley.

The World Cup holders carried off the Umbro Cup to add to the proud collection in their trophy cabinet at CBF headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. They left English football in a state of exhausted confusion and, surely, relief that this longest domestic season - a full 10 months, too much of it scarred by the sleaze factor - had finally come to an end.

England can look ahead to a new start in August. Ideally it will include a more creative and intelligent (and less whingeing) approach to European football by the leading clubs, a more responsible attitude from directors, managers and players towards the game's public credibility . . . and then a successful European Championship finale. Whether England win or lose is, to be honest, less important than a very public and international demonstration of English football's ability to clean up its own game.

The means are all there: a Premiership offered more media exposure than ever before, four clubs back in the UEFA Cup, Blackburn Rovers guaranteed (thanks to TV and sponsorship pressure) a place in the group stage of the Champions League and then the most important event in the four-yearly European calendar.

The game is coming home - that's the slogan which accompanies the Euro'96 publicity but it will be a bitter homecoming if clubs, officials and players waste the opportunity. English football, over the coming season, will be under the international spotlight as never before.

Television, radio and hundreds of foreign newspapers and magazines will send their commentators and correspondents to report on the current state of English football.

After the Umbro Cup the interim verdict is qualified optimism. The sleaze factor is, at least, being addressed - though one fears that public exposure in the tabloids is perhaps a greater deterrent than the game's own woolly disciplinary procedures.

Administratively, we have the possibility of the Football Association and Premier League achieving a stealthy takeover of the Football League and thus unifying professional authority. As for the football itself ... that's another matter entirely.

The Umbro Cup offered both positive and negative statements. On the one hand, it was inevitable it would be seized upon as a test of significance for Terry Venables and the new-look England for which everyone apparently longed after the unfortunate reign of Graham Taylor. On the other hand, those expectations were overindulged.

The nature of the challenge to a team weakened by injuries and end-of-season fatigue was about the progress made so far - NOT about England's serious European Championship-winning potential in a year's time.

Then again, each nation in the Umbro Cup had their own varied agenda.

Brazil were gathering their forces for the first time since the World Cup to prepare for the Copa America. That meant moulding a new team, mixing up the 1994 survivors and the 1995 newcomers. First signs were highly encouraging, of course. Brazil won the event, all their three matches

Turning Japanese . . . Gazza on the offensive

and produced the two most outstanding Umbro Cup individuals in Juninho and Roberto Carlos. Both of them, be it noted, not 1994 veterans but new arrivals on the international scene.

Sweden arrived at the Umbro Cup in a state of unexpected transition. Coach Tommy Svensson had not expected his team to fall apart in such a dramatic fashion this year. European qualifying defeats by Turkey and Hungary and a home draw against Iceland had wrecked morale just as effectively as injuries (notably to Tomas Brolin) had shattered the tactical discipline which was central to last year's third-place finish at the World Cup. Sweden had hoped to use the Umbro Cup for relaxed experimentation. Instead, they found the tournament essential for rushing forward a string of international novices in preparation for a tough qualifying struggle in the autumn.

Then there were Japan, seeking honourable results to enhance their bid to host the 2002 World Cup. They ended the tournament, certainly, as its diplomatic winners.

Final flourish

THE central text of the International Challenge Tournament – English revivalism against Brazilian achievement – was encapsulated in the final game in which England had to beat Brazil to win the Umbro Cup while a draw would have been enough for the world champions.

After a lot of nonsensical talk about the English potential for matching Brazil on the South Americans' own terms, the hosts began playing their own "real" game in exemplary fashion.

Pace, direction, energy and purpose were all brought to bear in the opening stages as England drove forward – continuing much as they had left off in the closing stages against Sweden at Elland Road.

Brazil, perhaps lulled into a sense of false security about the competitive nature of the tournament from their matches against Sweden and Japan, were unsettled into conceding a lot of unnecessary possession.

England took grateful advantage.

Ronaldo struck a post in the ninth minute on a rare breakaway but England provided the Brazilians with a greater defensive test which was reflected by the first-half corner count of 7-0. Corner counts do not always reflect domination but, in this case, it was reasonable enough and England were worth the one-goal lead at the interval provided by Graeme Le Saux's lofted volley from fully 25 yards after Brazil had half-cleared a driven Stuart Pearce free kick on the right.

This was not Le Saux's only contribution to England's improvement. His insertion on the left of midfield had raised concerned discussion before the game but, in fact, he helped provide England with the disciplined physical platform which they had been lacking so desperately against Sweden. All the great teams have included their share of workers, of fetchers and carriers, and Venables should not have felt under any need to defend the Le Saux switch.

David Batty's claim to a permanent place in the other midfield holding position was, however, much more questionable. His flailing arms and physical excesses cost him a first-half booking – just the sort of undisciplined stuff which loses big matches rather than helps better team-mates win them.

All those fears were justified after eight minutes of the second half when Batty's tackling discipline failed him in front of the England penalty box. While Roberto Carlos dummied as if to drive in a low free kick, Juninho took two steps and curled the ball round the end of the wall and down past Tim Flowers's flailing right hand to change the game.

Brazil had gained the initiative for the first time and never let it go.

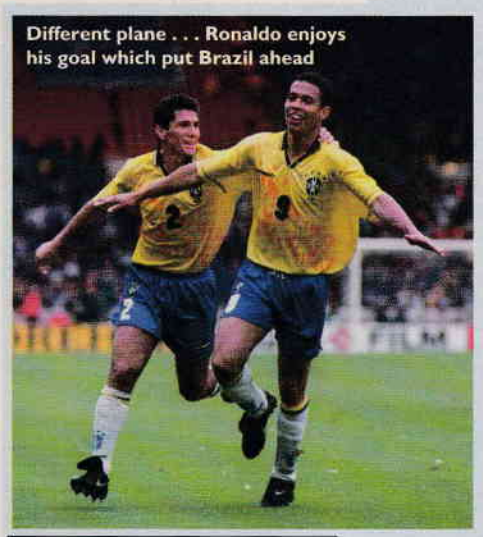
Juninho split England down the centre for Ronaldo to step wide of Flowers and roll in goal No 2, then an unfortunate deflected defensive header by Pearce offered a killing third to Edmundo.

The final whistle marked Terry Venables's first defeat as England manager just as FIFA president Joao Havelange – who was there to hand over the Umbro Cup to Dunga and his team-mates – celebrated the 21st anniversary of his own victory over Sir Stanley Rous in the FIFA presidential elections.

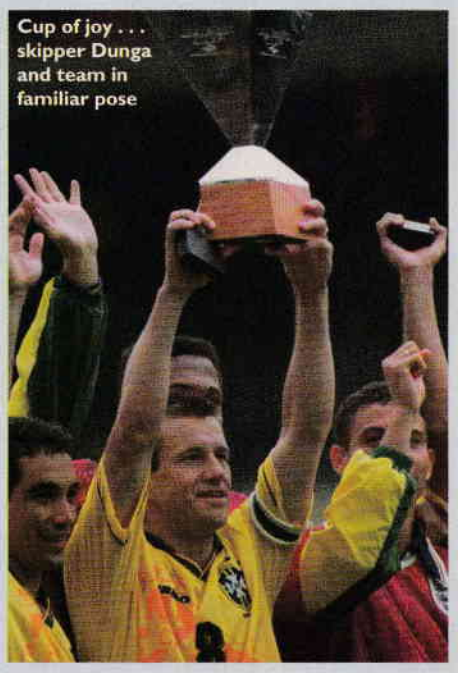
It's a strange fact that England and Brazil, for all the contrast in styles and temperament, have produced very few memorable contests. Brazil's 1-0 victory at the 1970 World Cup is perhaps the only one. The matches have, mostly, been tight and, mostly, fallen in favour of Brazil.

Fortunately, Brazil cannot compete in the European Championship.

Still, there remains much to be done. And not just by Terry Venables. Euro '96 will be a challenge for everyone in the English game. And they start, in their wider reality, in August with the new season.



Different plane . . . Ronaldo enjoys his goal which put Brazil ahead



Cup of joy . . . skipper Dunga and team in familiar pose

ENGLAND 1 — BRAZIL 3

Le Saux 38

Juhinho 53
Ronaldo 60
Edmundo 75

JUNE 11 - WEMBLEY

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 67,318. **Ref:** Pairetto (Ita)

ENGLAND: Flowers - G Neville, Scales *(Barton 90)*, Cooper, Pearce - Anderton, Platt, Batty *(Gascoigne 78)*, Le Saux - Shearer, Sheringham *(Collymore 78)*.

BRAZIL: Zetti - Jorginho, Aldair *(Ronaldao 89)*, Marcio Santos, Cesar Sampaio, Roberto Carlos - Zinho, Dunga, Juninho *(Leonardo 84)* - Edmundo, Ronaldo *(Giovanni 76)*.

FINAL TABLE

Brazil	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
England	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Sweden	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Japan	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

Top scorer: K Andersson (Swe) ...3

UMBRO CUP

ENGLAND

● PAUL GASCOIGNE shot off to Scotland immediately after England's disappointing win over Japan to finalise his transfer to Glasgow Rangers. "I'm delighted that I will soon be a Rangers player," said Gascoigne. "The European Cup is a bonus. I missed out on Europe with Lazio twice because of injuries, So I hope this will be third time lucky." Warren Barton was another member of the England squad on the move, joining Kevin Keegan's Newcastle in a £4million deal from Wimbledon.

● TERRY VENABLES was quick to point out how many England regulars were unavailable for the Umbro Cup. The two players England missed most, Paul Ince and Tony Adams, both used the time away from the international spotlight to sort out their futures. Adams, out injured, signed a new contract with Arsenal which will keep him at Highbury until the year 2000. Ince, who was taking a break following his acquittal on an assault charge relating to Eric Cantona's assault on a Crystal Palace fan at Selhurst Park, was thinking over a move to Internazionale. Man United were reported to have accepted Inter's £7million bid.

● EVERTON chairman Peter Johnson wants the Football Association to seek permission to 'escape' its exclusive Wembley contract more often after almost 30,000 fans turned out at Goodison, 8,000 more than at Wembley the previous Saturday, for the Brazil-Japan game, the ground's first senior international in 25 years. More than 3,000 fans had to be turned away on safety grounds – and the match did not even feature England. A further 30,000 turned out at Elland Road in Leeds when England played Sweden, while 29,000 were at Villa Park to see Brazil take on Sweden. Not surpringingly, the worst attendance of the tournament was the 5,591 in Nottingham at the City Ground for the Japan-Sweden game.

Goalkeepers
Tim FLOWERS ....(Blackburn)
Ian WALKER ....(Tottenham)

Defenders
Warren BARTON .... (Newcastle)
Gary NEVILLE ....(Man Utd)
David UNSWORTH ....(Everton)
Gary PALLISTER ....(Man Utd)
Colin COOPER ....(Nottingham Forest)
John SCALES ....(Liverpool)
Graeme LE SAUX ....(Blackburn)
Stuart PEARCE ....(Nottm Forest)

Midfielders
Darren ANDERTON ....(Tottenham)
David BATTY ....(Blackburn)
David PLATT ....(Sampdoria)
Paul GASCOIGNE.... (Lazio)
John BARNES ....(Liverpool)
Peter BEARDSLEY .... (Newcastle)

Forwards
Steve MCMANAMAN ....(Liverpool)
Nicky BARMBY .... (Tottenham)
Alan SHEARER ....(Blackburn)
Stan COLLYMORE ....(Nottingham Forest)
Teddy SHERINGHAM ....(Tottenham)

Coach
Terry VENABLES

BRAZIL

● SAO PAULO wonderboy Juninho was one of the revelations of the Umbro Cup. Yet his 'arrival' in the Brazilian squad was not made easy by some of his veteran colleagues.

Skipper Dunga met Juninho as a team-mate for the first time when he joined up with the Brazil squad in Tel Aviv for the May friendly against Israel. When he saw manager Mario Zagalo handing Juninho the revered, almost sacred, No. 10 shirt, he was none too impressed – and made no secret of his concern.

It was a different story after the game, Dunga having had an opportunity to see Juninho at his mercurial best. On the team's return to the dressing room the World Cup skipper knelt at Juninho's feet and threw out his arms in worship.

It was, of course, a send-up but no-one raised an eyebrow when Juninho was given the No 10 as his squad number in England.

● ROBERTO CARLOS, another shining light, was Brazil's third-choice left-back just a few months ago. A free-kick specialist, he was one of the stars of Palmeiras' national championship-winning team last year and now seems set to follow other former Palmeiras internationals Cesar Sampaio, Zinho, Mazinho and Evair and move abroad. Paris Saint-Germain have been tipped as the favourites to sign him.

● MARCIO SANTOS has moved from Fiorentina to European champions Ajax for £2.13m. The Brazil centre-half has signed a four-year contract and is seen as a replacement for retiring Frank Rijkaard.

● BEBETO was one of the World Cup-winning team missing from the Umbro Cup. He was wanted by his Spanish club Deportivo La Coruna for the final League matches of the Spanish season. Romario picked up a knee injury shortly before the tournament started but would have been unable to play even if fit as the Rio League had reached a crucial stage and his club Flamengo would have wanted to field him.

GOALKEEPERS
GILMAR ..... (Cerezo Osaka)
ZETTI ..... (Sao Paulo)
DEFENDERS
JORGINHO ..... (Kashima Antlers)
CAFU ..... (Real Zaragoza)
MARCIO SANTOS ..... (Fiorentina)
ALDAIR ..... (AS Roma)
LEONARDO ..... (Kashima Antlers)
ANDRE CRUZ ..... (Napoli)
ROBERTO CARLOS ..... (Palmeiras)
RODRIGO ..... (Vitoria Bahia)
RONALDAO ..... (Shimizu S-Pulse)
MIDFIELDERS
DUNGA ..... (VfB Stuttgart)
ZINHO ..... (Yokohama Flugels)
CESAR SAMPAIO ..... (Yokohama Flugels)
DORIVA ..... (XV Novembre Piracicaba)
GIOVANNI ..... (Santos)
JUNINHO ..... (Sao Paulo)
FORWARDS
RONALDO ..... (PSV)
EDILSON ..... (Benfica)
RIVALDO ..... (Palmeiras)
EDMUNDO ..... (Flamengo)
COACH
MARIO ZAGALO

Tel's hollow win

ENGLAND 2 JAPAN 1

Anderton 48 ***Ihara 63***
Platt 88 pen

JUNE 3 – WEMBLEY
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,142. **Ref:** J Uilenberg

ENGLAND: Flowers, Neville, Scales, Unsworth, Pearce, Anderton, Batty *(Gascoigne 69)*, Platt, Beardsley *(McManaman 69)*, Shearer, Collymore *(Sheringham 76)*
JAPAN: Maekawa, Narahashi, Ihara, Hashiratani, Soma *(Yanagimoto 74)*, Yamaguchi, Kitazawa, Tasaka, Miura, Nakayama *(Kurosaki 66)*, Morishima (Fukuda 80)

ENGLAND opened the four-nation tournament with a sluggish performance against a spirited Japan side playing at Wembley for the first time.

England coach Terry Venables, positive as ever, was quick to emphasise afterwards the importance of winning what was in theory England's first competitive match under his charge. He was at pains to point out that his makeshift team had done well considering it had contained four debutants.

The reality was somewhat different. Japan matched and for long periods of the game outplayed England. Their often superior technique and movement suggested the J.League's investment in Brazilian players and coaches could reap rich rewards in years to come.

Stan Collymore, on his debut, had difficulty coping with a defence tightly marshalled by sweeper Hashiratani. Both he and a subdued Alan Shearer received scant support from a midfield bereft of positive ideas. It all added to the mystery of Matthew Le Tissier's omission from the sqaud.

Things might have been different had Shearer's 7th-minute shot not been well held by the impressive Maekawa. But it was Japan's front men, Miura and Nakayama, who posed the greater threat in the first half. Miura, the only Japanese player based abroad, with Genoa, saw a curling free-kick well saved by Flowers shortly before the interval.

Yet it took just three minutes of the second half for England to take the lead. Anderton, the home side player most likely to secure a breakthrough, neatly exchanged passes with Shearer before seeing his shot deflected in off Ihara.

England could have expected to build from there but Japan bounced back with a goal straight from the English Premiership, Ihara rising to glance Miura's corner inside an unguarded far post. Kazu Miura very nearly added to England's woes a minute later when he hit a post from 25 yards.

The English midfield was crying out for fresh ideas. Enter a bleached-blond Paul Gascoigne, making his first international appearance for 15 months. The new Ranger gave the crowd, a meagre 21,142, a lift on a rainswept afternoon and soon injected a sense of purpose to England's play, allowing David Platt's influence to grow.

It was the England captain who secured a barely deserved win after Hashiratani handled on the line from Scales' mishit shot.

The Japanese skipper departed, Platt converted the penalty – and England escaped with a hollow victory.

GAVIN HAMILTON

Rising son . . . Ihara celebrates his Wembley goal

Net gain . . . England's free-scoring captain makes no fuss over his latest goal, which denied Japan a point

Brazil lift tempo

BRAZIL 3 JAPAN 0

Roberto Carlos 6, Zinho 51, 63

JUNE 6 – GOODISON PARK, LIVERPOOL

HT: 1-0. **Ref:** J. McCluskey (Sco). **Att:** 29,327.

Brazil: Zetti, Jorginho, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Roberto Carlos, Juninho *(Leonardo 61)*, Dunga, Doriva, Zinho *(Rivaldo 72)*, Edmundo, Ronaldo.

Japan: Kojima, Narahashi, Tasaka *(Moriyasu 80)*, Ihara, Omura, Soma, Morishima (Kurosaki 66), Kitazawa, Yamaguchi, Miura, Nakayama *(Fukuda 45)*.

BRAZIL treated a sell-out Goodison Park crowd to a fine display of fluid football, which put England's efforts against Japan in the shade. For a while England huffed and puffed against Japan's World Cup Wannabees, Brazil simply blew their house down.

The Brazilians, fielding only five of their World Cup-winners, controlled the game from the sixth minute, when Roberto Carlos pounced on a mistake by Tasaka to fire home a low, left-footed shot. The early lead allowed Brazil to relax and they dominated play, with Dunga and Edmundo pulling the strings in midfield.

Twice in the first half Brazil hit the woodwork, with an Edmundo shot and a Juninho free-kick, while Roberto Carlos - Branco's natural successor as free-kick expert - drew several good saves out of Kojima with thunderous free-kicks. Japan's only real chance came when Marcio Santos mis-directed a clearance to Miura, whose low cross was met by Nakayama, but Zetti blocked the shot with his legs.

Brazil scored their second goal six minutes into the second half to kill off all hope of a Japanese revival. There seemed to be little danger when Juninho's corner was headed clear by Ihara, but Zinho, moving backwards, connected with a ferocious volley from 25 yards which gave Kojima no chance.

Japan continued to work hard, with Miura organising things, but their final ball always seemed to be the wrong one. Meanwhile, their defence was left chasing shadows as Edmundo weaved his magic patterns on the edge of the box.

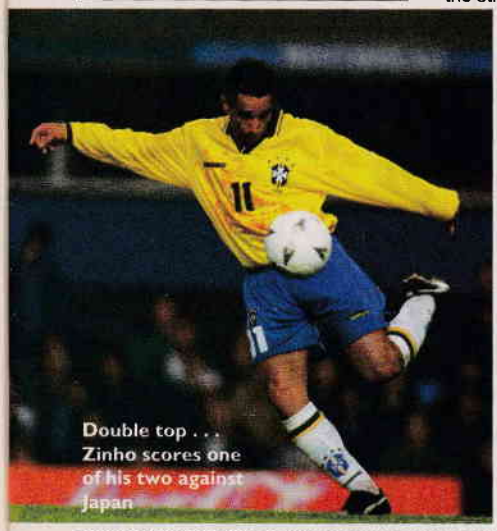
Brazil's third goal arrived in the 63rd minute when Jorginho intercepted a pass on the right and laid the ball through to Edmundo. He let the ball run across him, drawing the defender, before laying a square pass to Zinho, who pushed in to blast a shot high into the left-hand corner of the net.

Japan's learning curve, which had been so slight against England, was far steeper in this game, but the experience should benefit them in the long-run as coach Sho Kamu said after the game: "We learned in every aspect. We haven't had many opportunities to play top-class teams in foreign countries and I hope my players valued the experience."

Mario Zagalo, the Brazil coach, said he was pleased with the win and was keen to point out the difference in Brazil's play between this summer and last summer. "I do not want to make comparisons with the football we played in 1994," he said. "At that time we played the football we had to play, whereas we are now playing the football we think we should be playing."

All this, and without Bebeto and Romario!

JOHN KELLY



Double top . . . Zinho scores one of his two against Japan

Swedes drained

SWEDEN came into the Umbro Cup under more pressure, oddly, than the reigning world champions. Defeats by Turkey, Hungary and, only a few days earlier, a home draw against Iceland had all but blown their European Championship qualifying dream.

The Umbro Cup thus offered both the opportunity to regroup but also the challenge of putting together some results to help stitch confidence back together.

That is not, of course, the ideal way to prepare for a game against Brazil, even a makeshift Brazilian team lacking most of their World Cup-winners and under the new-old management of Mario Zagalo. Brazil had hoped to line up Bebeto against Sweden in the enforced absence of the unwilling but also injured Romario.

In the event FIFA gave Bebeto the green light to turn out for La Coruna instead in their Spanish league showdown against Real Madrid and without his experience and eye for space Brazil struggled to make their technical superiority count in the opening exchanges.

Sweden's disjointed display certainly offered Brazil early openings. But first Dunga had a drive well stopped by Bengt Andersson then Ronaldo headed wastefully wide after a chipped cross from Juninho, the pick of the Brazilian creators. Slowly Sweden began to get their act together, thanks to some solid tackling by Kamark and typical invention from Thern. Ironically, this was when Brazil also took the lead – Edmundo stabbing home from close range after Zinho gave Roberto Carlos time in which to cross with deadly accuracy to the six-yard box.

The second half maintained the theme: Brazilian technical dominance and Swedish physical resistance. Occasionally that physical resistance went too far and Dahlin was lucky not to be sent off after ploughing through the back of Cesar Sampaio's ankles. The Brazilian was carried off and Swedish manager Svensson sensibly withdrew Dahlin from the fray to save him, perhaps, from retaliatory treatment behind the referee's back.

Six minutes from time Ronaldo headed against a post. Two-nil would have been a better reflection of Brazil's control but coach Mario Zagalo was happy enough with the result which stood.

KEIR RADNEDGE

Young gun . . . Ronaldo heads

BRAZIL 1 SWEDEN 0

Edmundo 42

JUNE 4 – VILLA PARK, BIRMINGHAM

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,131. **Ref:** Jol (Hol).

BRAZIL: Zetti – Jorginho, Aldair, Ronaldao, Roberto Carlos, Dunga, Cesar Sampaio *(Andre Cruz 78)*, Zinho, Juninho, Edmundo, Ronaldo.

SWEDEN: B Andersson – Kamark, Lucic, Bjorklund, Ljung, Alexandersson, Thern *(Gudmundsson 46)*, Mild, Erlingmark, Dahlin *(Lidman 79)*, K Andersson *(Larsson 68)*.

UMBRO CUP

JAPAN

- MANY of the Brazilians who lined up against Japan were familiar faces to the Japanese. In fact, more members of the Brazilian national side now play in Japan than Italy. Jorginho, Leonardo (Kashima Antlers), Zinho, Cesar Sampaio (Yokohama Flugels), Gilmar (Cerezo Osaka) and Ronaldao (Shimuzu S-Pulse) will be joined in Japan in July by captain Dunga, who is leaving VfB Stuttgart for Jubilo Iwata.
- KAZU MIURA, the only member of the Japanese squad to play club football abroad, in Italy with Genoa, is a transfer target for Sporting Lisbon. Sporting's signing of Niall Quinn is now back on, and Miura is seen as an ideal striking partner.
- COACH Shu Kamo used three goalkeepers in the tournament. Nobuyokhi Kojima, of Bellmare Hiratsuka, performed well against Brazil at Goodison Park on his debut, as did Kenichi Shimokawa in his first internatioal, against Sweden. But it was Kazuya Maekawa who impressed most, against England. The 27-year-old from Sanfrecce Hiroshima now looks set to take over from veteran Matsunaga, who was omitted from the tournament squad as the regular goalkeeper.
- ONE Japanese player who stood out during the tournament was left-back Naoki Soma. He made his debut earlier this year against Ecuador in the Kirin Cup after a number of games for the Olympic side. The 23-year-old plays behind Leonardo at Kashima Antlers. We can think of less talented people to learn from . . .
- OTHERS who caught the eye included Toshiya Fujita, the scorer of Japan's first goal against Sweden, who is seen as a future playmaker, striker Masashi Nakayama and veteran defender Masami Ihara, whose near-post header from Miura's corner embarrassed England.
- JAPAN collected £66,000 in prize-money from sponsors Umbro for finishing bottom. Sweden picked up £133,000 while runners-up England received £250,000. Brazil, as winners, got £500,000.

GOALKEEPERS
Nobuyuki KOJIMA .....(Bellmare Hiratsuka)
Kazuya MAEKAWA ....(Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
Kenichi SHIMOKAWA ..(JEF United Ichihara)

DEFENDERS
Tetsuji HASHIRATANI .....(Verdy Kawasaki)
Katsuo KANDA .....(Cerezo Osaka)
Masami IHARA .....(Yokohama Marinos)
Norio OMURA .....(Yokohama Marinos)
Kentaro SAWADA .....(Kashiwa Reysol)
Naoki SOMA .....(Kashima Antlers)
Akira NARAHASHI .....(Bellmare Hiratsuka)
Hiroshige YANAGIMOTO (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)

MIDFIELDERS
Masahiro FUKUDA ....(Urawa Red Diamonds)
Tsuyoshi KITAZAWA .....(Verdy Kawasaki)
Hajime MORIYASU ....(Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
Kazuaki TASAKA .....(Bellmare Hiratsuka)
Toshiya FUJITA .....(Jubilo Iwata)

FORWARDS
Kazuyoshi MIURA .....(Genoa)
Masashi NAKAYAMA .....(Jubilo Iwata)
Hisashi KUROSAKI .....(Kashima Antlers)
Hiroaki MORISHIMA .....(Cerezo Osaka)

COACH
Shu KAMO

SWEDEN

● THOMAS RAVELLI collected his 126th international cap against Brazil, overtaking Peter Shilton's record. Not content with that, the 35-year-old keeper says he will carry on playing for as long as possible.

● STEFAN SCHWARZ was too exhausted after a long first season in England with Arsenal to compete in the Umbro Cup. Not surprisingly, coach Tommy Svensson was not keen to see other Swedes playing in England. "Stefan Schwarz is not the player he was a year ago. He is exhausted and had nothing more to give," he said.

Svensson will not have enjoyed hearing rumours that Martin Dahlin, who returned to Borussia Monchengladbach in Germany after the game against Brazil, is a target for Nottingham Forest. Manager Frank Clark is looking for replacements for the soon-to-depart Stan Collymore and is said to be willing to part with up to £4million for Dahlin.

● ANOTHER man missing from the Swedish squad was Tomas Brolin. He recently returned to action after breaking his ankle in Sweden's Euro '96 qualifier against Hungary. But he was wanted by his club Parma for the Italian Cup Final with Juventus.

● KENNET ANDERSSON's goal against England at Elland Road will have reminded Premiership chairman, in Leeds for an annual meeting, of the striker's undoubted talents. His French club side Caen were recently relegated and Andersson is keen to play in England. Andersson, a target for Crystal Palace last summer, was poised to join Sheffield Wednesday before Trevor Francis was sacked as manager and is now said to be interesting West Ham.

● MAGNUS ERLINGMARK, one of the stars of IFK Gothenburg's Champions League campaign last season, broke his nose in a clash with Paul Gascoigne at Elland Road and missed Sweden's match with Japan. Gascoigne claimed the injury was a complete accident, but Swedish coach Svensson was angry at the challenge, saying: "That kind of thing has no place in football."

GOALKEEPERS
Thomas RAVELLI .....(IFK Gothenburg)
Bengt ANDERSSON .....(Orgryte)

DEFENDERS
Mikael NILSSON .....(IFK Gothenburg)
Patrik ANDERSSON .....(Borussia Mg)
Pontus KAMARK .....(IFK Gothenburg)
Joachim BJORKLUND .....(IFK Gothenburg)
Roger LJUNG .....(MSV Duisburg)
Gary SUNDGREN .....(AIK Stockholm)
Jesper MATTSSON .....(Halmstads)
Teddy LUCIC .....(Vastra Frolunda)

MIDFIELDERS
Jonas THERN .....(ASRoma)
Henrik LARSSON .....(Feyenoord)
Magnus ERLINGMARK .....(IFK Gothenburg)
Hakan MILD .....(Servette)
Niclas ALEXANDERSSON ..(Halmstads BK)
Ola ANDERSSON .....(AIK Stockholm)

FORWARDS
Niklas GUDMUNSSON .....(Halmstads)
Kennet ANDERSSON .....(Caen)
Martin DAHLIN .....(Borussia Mg)
Dick LIDMAN .....(AIK Stockholm)

COACH
Tommy SVENSSON.

England escape

TWO GOALS in the last two minutes saved England from an embarrassing defeat at Elland Road, but the performance highlighted problems – old and new – for Terry Venables and his England team.

Defensively, this was a naive, disjointed performance which yielded three goals against for the first time in a home England international since 1972, when West Germany beat Alf Ramsey's side 3-1 at Wembley. The defence played far too deep to offer any real assistance to the hard-pressed midfield, which was often overwhelmed by the sheer speed of the Swedes.

John Barnes and Peter Beardsley were behind much of England's best work going forward in the first half, but struggled to cope with their defensive roles. Both gave way, to Gascoigne and Barmby, after an hour, but by then England were 3-1 down and looking beaten.

Sweden's 2-0 lead was secured by Hakan Mild after sloppy defending and goalkeeping in both cases. Teddy Sheringham gave England some hope just before half-time, with his first international goal a result of the striker's instinct for being in the right place at the right time.

Prior to that, England had made and wasted several good chances with Platt, Shearer and Sheringham particularly guilty.

Any hope of an England revival seemed lost 23 seconds into the second half when Pontus Kamark's through ball split England's centre-backs, leaving the impressive Kennet Andersson to lob the ball over Flowers. The goal drained England's confidence, and it is to their credit that they kept plugging away when all seemed lost.

Despite being continually sucked in to the near post, England did manage to penetrate the tight Swedish defence in the 89th minute when Le Saux earned a free-kick near the goal-line. Gascoigne, thinking quickly, knocked it to the far post where an unmarked Platt headed his 26th international goal.

A minute later, and with new-found urgency, England grabbed an unlikely equaliser. Le Saux's cross-field ball was headed on by Sheringham, who headed it on to Shearer. His knock down was met on the volley by Darren Anderton, who crashed the ball home off both posts past a bewildered Thomas Ravelli, winning his 126th cap – a world record for a goalkeeper.

After the final whistle, Venables dismissed all talk of lucky escapes by saying: "There are two sides to every story. If we'd been 3-1 up we'd have said we got sloppy. But we scored three within 90 minutes, and that's what counts."

But even Venables must have been concerned at his team's lack of cohesion, even allowing for the raft of injury-enforced changes. The defence certainly missed Tony Adams' leadership qualities, and if Paul Ince had played, Platt might have had more time to attack the Swedish box instead of trying to marshall his troops.

Sweden boss Tommy Svensson said he was happy with his team's performance, though his face after the game could not quite hide his disappointment at having squandered a much-needed victory.

JOHN KELLY

ENGLAND 3 SWEDEN 3

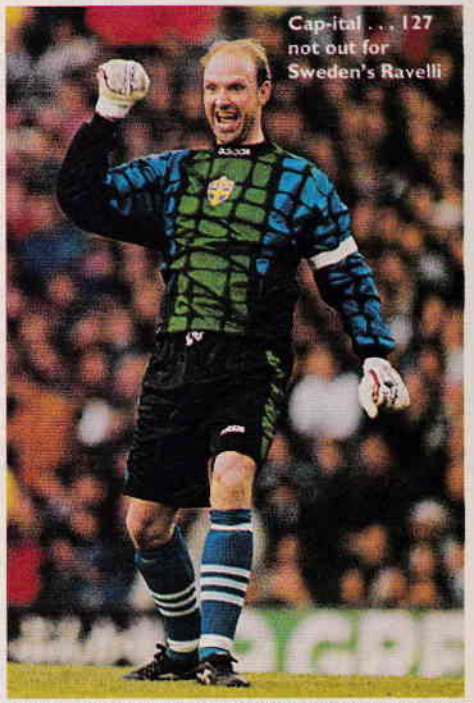
Sheringham 44, Platt 89, Anderton 90 — ***Mild 11, 37 44, K Andersson 46***

JUNE 8 - ELLAND RAOD, LEEDS

HT: 1-2. **Att:** 32,008. **Ref:** L Mottram (Sco)

ENGLAND: Flowers, Barton, Le Saux, Cooper, Pallister *(Scales 81)*, Anderton, Barnes *(Barmby 64)*, Platt, Beardsley *(Gascoigne 64)*, Sheringham, Shearer.

SWEDEN: Ravelli, Sundgrun, Lucic, Bjorklund, Klamark, Alexandersson, Mild, Erlingmark *(O Andersson 89)*, Gudmunsson, H Larsson, K Andersson *(Lidman 85)*.



Cap-ital . . . 127 not out for Sweden's Ravelli

Japan make a point

SWEDEN 2 JAPAN 2

K Andersson 52, 68 — ***Fujita 8, Kurosaki 84***

JUNE 10 - CITY GROUND, NOTTINGHAM

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,591. **Ref:** A Amendolia (Ita).

JAPAN: Shimokawa, Hashiratani, Ihara, Omura, Narahashi *(Yanagimoto 84)*, Fujita *(Moriyasu 71)*, Yamaguchi, Kitazawa *(Fukuda 79)*, Soma, Kurosaki, Miura.

SWEDEN: Ravelli, Sundgren, Bjorklund, Lucic, Kamark, Alexandersson, O Andersson, Wibran, Gudmundsson *(M Nilsson 72)*, K Andersson, H Larsson.

JAPAN'S international learning curve continued at Nottingham's City Ground, where they were well worth the point in this entertaining draw against Sweden.

While Japan are improving all the time, as they push their bid for the 2002 World Cup, Sweden are on the slide, without a win in their last seven matches – including draws against Cyprus, Iceland and the Japanese.

A draw might have been the predictable result, then, but Japan could have won this game against a Swedish side which looked tired and, for most of the first half, disinterested.

Japan took the lead – for the first time in this tournament – after only eight minutes, delighting the large Japanese contingent in the modest crowd of 5,591. Fujita, attacking down the right, turned inside a defender and went for goal. His first shot was blocked, but he beat Thomas Ravelli with a low drive at the second attempt.

Sweden emerged in far more determined mood for the second period, and scored twice in 16 minutes through Kennet Andersson – the first from a needlessly-conceeded free-kick, the second a simple shot from the penalty spot after confusion in the box.

A mistake at the other end allowed Japan back into the match, for a draw they thoroughly deserved. Ravelli's weak fly-kick went straight to Motohiro Yamaguchi, who headed the ball into Hisahi Kurosaki's path. The big striker controlled the ball, deftly turned inside his marker and slid a shot low under Ravelli with just six minutes left to play.

The draw represented a fine result for Japan, who have emerged from this tournament with great credit.

new kids on the block

Ajax are the new governors of European football. Keir Radnedge reports from Vienna on a night when the young guns of Amsterdam outwitted the old masters from Milan

"IT'S ONLY the result which counts. The rest is not important."

With that cryptic comment, Milan coach Fabio Capello left the Viennese stage to Louis Van Gaal of Ajax in the wake of the holders' failure in the Austrian capital.

A much more serious failure than the one against Marseille two years ago. This time Milan did not have the consolation of the Italian League title and its insurance of an immediate return to Europe's premier club competition.

This time defeat condemned Milan to life in the UEFA Cup. Not a prospect to cheer president Silvio Berlusconi or provide him with a happy distraction from ever more complex affairs of state back home in Italy.

Berlusconi, to be fair, did not rush off in a huff but leaned over the press box railings to sum up the game. He was present in Munich two years ago for the defeat by Marseille. Then he was absent, on state business, for the triumph over Barcelona. Now he was back – and the jinx was with him.

The game, for Milan, is up. Signing George Weah and perhaps Pierluigi Casiraghi will not provide all the answers. Franco Baresi has to be replaced and so does Marco Van Basten, whatever their personal preferences.

Ajax may not possess Milan's financial power and with it the strength to hold their team together, but few would begrudge them a fourth Champions Cup. Ajax, however nervily they played the Final, are worthy champions. As Capello, again, conceded: "If you beat the holders three times in one season then you have every right to be the new champions."

None wore a broader grin, of course, than Frank Rijkaard, who marked the penultimate game of his career by creating the goal for Patrick Kluivert which beat the Milan team for whom he had himself been the match-winner the last time they played a Champions Final in Vienna, in 1990.

Rijkaard . . . triumphant

Rijkaard himself was in the unfazed image of the Austrian capital which greeted the invasion forces from Holland and Italy with its poise undisturbed. Hordes of red, white and black took over the city centre which large numbers of Viennese had clearly abandoned for the day.

In the event of their absence, their city did not come to too much harm. Nor the Prater stadium or, as we should now call, the Ernst-Happel-stadion. A tribute to a legendary figure from Austrian football, even if all his major work was achieved in exile in Holland, Belgium, Spain and Germany. Happel was a pragmatist, not a fantasist and that, if you are into omens, should have meant a nod in the direction of Milan more than Ajax.

So much for omens!

These occasions are always interlaced with political overtones. UEFA takes the opportunity of the Champions Final to build key committee meetings into the week's programme. This was no exception. A decision on time-outs was left, effectively, to FIFA and the International Board. But, of far greater significance, was a streamlining of the systems of coefficients which governs how clubs are sorted out within the European club competitions.

Under the system which had held sway until now, to take the most significant example, Blackburn Rovers would have had *(cont'd over)*

All white on night . . . Simone and his new boots

AJAX 1 — MILAN 0

Kluivert 83

VAN DER SAR	1	ROSSI
REIZIGER	2	PANUCCI
BLIND *(capt)*	3	MALDINI
RIJKAARD	4	ALBERTINI
F. DE BOER	5	COSTACURTA
SEEDORF	6	BARESI *(capt)*
GEORGE	7	DONADONI
DAVIDS	8	DESAILLY
R. DE BOER	9	MASSARO
LITMANEN	10	BOBAN
OVERMARS	11	SIMONE
VAN GAAL	*Coach*	CAPELLO

MAY 24 – VIENNA, ERNST-HAPPEL-STADION
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 49,500. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom).
Substitutes: KANU for SEEDORF (52 min), KLUIVERT for LITMANEN (65 min), LENTINI for BOBAN (83 min), ERANIO for MASSARO (89 min).

THE MATCH – MINUTE BY MINUTE

0.....Ajax kick off.
20 .....The first half-chance as Frank de Boer comes striding forward to head over the bar as Davids slings in an Ajax corner from the left.
26 .....Milan's first shot, a low, angled effort from Simone from 25 yards out, is easily gathered by Van der Sar.
32 .....The first yellow card, shown to Overmars for bringing down Panucci.
36 .....Superb football from Milan. Simone backheels, Maldini's long cross is turned back from beyond the far post by Donadoni and Panucci's shot is deflected on to the roof of the net for a corner.
41 .....More brilliant inter-passing from Milan but Desailly's eventual shot is part-blocked and Van der Sar catches securely.
43 .....Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal is warned by referee Craciunescu for a touchline display of anger after the Romanian official awards a free-kick against the Dutch instead of against high-kicking Costacurta, under pressure on the edge of his own penalty box.
45 .....The closest yet. A high-speed break by Milan ends with Simone's first-time volley to a Donadoni cross being double-fisted for a corner by the fortunate Van der Sar.
HALF-TIME: Ajax 0 Milan 0
46 .....Milan restart. Van der Sar needs treatment after colliding with Frank de Boer as he punches clear (Desailly's header to the loose ball flies high and wide).
52 .....Ajax substitute Kanu for Seedorf, with George moving back to the right side of midfield.
62 .....A superb through ball from Albertini finds Massaro who turns and shoots – wide – all in one movement.
65 .....Kluivert substitutes for Litmanen.
76 .....Another defence-splitting through pass from Albertini provides Simone with the opportunity to turn and shoot, only for Van der Sar to dive to save.
77 .....Kanu shoots narrowly wide at the other end.
83 .....Davids cuts in from the left, Rijkaard plays an angled pass through the heart of the Milan defence, goes for a return pass and distracts the Milan cover long enough for **KLUIVERT** to dart forward and stab a shot past Rossi. Ajax 1 Milan 0.
83 .....Lentini substitutes Boban.
89 .....Eranio substitutes Massaro.
90 .....Ajax skipper Blind has a close-range shot on the counter deflected over the bar by Rossi.
FULL-TIME: Ajax 1 Milan 0

to play in the Champions League preliminary round next season. Now, at a stroke, they were directly seeded in the top eight. Anderlecht, edged out into the qualifying round, were the big losers.

It was also, clearly, a nonsense that Ajax – had they lost in Vienna – would have been in only the qualifying round next season when Blackburn were guaranteed a place.

But then, Holland is not as big a commercial market as Britain and the UEFA Champions League depends for its power on the triumvirate of football, sponsorship and television. Or, if you want to 'personalise' it, on UEFA, Amstel and Co plus ITV, RTI etc.

To what extent that subverts sporting competition supporters and officials have been arguing virtually non-stop. At least, as we discussed here last month, the Champions League's rigid seeding patterns has meant that the final is now contested between the continent's best two clubs. No more chance of the giants eliminating each other some way back down the road.

Not that the best teams always produce the best games. This was – albeit at rarefied level – a comparatively low-key match.

Milan never managed to match the 90-minute aggression which characterised their classic rout of Barcelona last year and Ajax froze to some extent – particularly in the first half. Even in the second half, the Dutch champions never found the fluency which has thrilled so many for so much of this past season.

Ajax had the opportunity in midfield early on to 'make' the game but some terrific tackling by Marcel Desailly prevented them ever getting into their rhythm. Referee Ion Craciunescu did not help, either, with some inconsistent rulings on trips and tackles from behind, which did nothing to help either side settle down.

It was 20 minutes before Frank de Boer rose – literally – to the first oportunity and headed wide from an Edgar Davids corner. Simone, Panucci and Desailly all had a pot at Van der Sar's goal as Milan threaded together several brilliant inter-passing counter-attacks.

The best they saved for last in the first half, when Roberto Donadoni's cross was volleyed, left-footed by Simone. The ball could have flown either side of Van der Sar and its sheer pace would have beaten the goalkeeper. Instead the ball flew straight at him and he clasped his hands more in prayer and reflex than in deliberate clasp. As it turned out, his prayer was answered and the ball ricocheted off his fists before going behind for a corner.

Milan might have turned around in the lead. Desailly, later named man of the match by a press panel for sponsors Eurocard, had suffocated the life out of the Ajax midfield.

Finidi George and Marc Overmars on the wings, Ronald De Boer at the apex of the Dutch attack and Litmanen, in the hole, were too static and easily restricted. Ajax needed to get their midfield men forward with more determination to help free the strikers. But they did not. At least, not until coach Van Gaal took off Seedorf and pulled George deeper and away from Paolo Maldini to fill Seedorf's position – if not his role – on the right of midfield.

Simultaneously, with Kanu in the centre of attack, Ronald de Boer shifted to the right – in the sort of indeterminate position which further troubled Milan's carefully-laid plans.

Not that Milan's attack seized up. A couple of delightful through passes from the far-sighted Demetrio Albertini provided Daniele Massaro and Simone with shoot-on-sight opportunities.

But the tide had been slowly turning against Milan long before Edgar Davids and Rijkaard served up the opportunity for Patrick Kluivert to become the youngest-ever marksman in the Champions Cup Final.

Milan threw themselves forward frantically. But the order had gone out of their play and they were condemned some time before Craciunescu's final whistle.

Van Gaal, who had twice danced down the touchine in anger – and earned a referee's reprimand – in the first half, now danced a jig of glee. His players cavorted in glee as Milan sank to their knees.

In the aftermath Ajax celebrated with their families back at the team hotel and then, the following day, in Amsterdam. As for Milan, they had barely received their losers medals than they turned to salute their fans . . . only to find two-thirds of them had already slunk out of the stadium. An unworthy salute to players who had achieved so much on behalf of Milan and their supporters.

But it said it all. The abdication was complete. European football had new governors.

Goodnight Vienna . . . Ajax celebrations

FINAL WORDS . . .

LOUIS VAN GAAL (Ajax coach): "Of course, I am very happy with the result though the way we won was not the usual Ajax way because I felt that, in the first half, many of our players did not play as well as they can.

"That's why I was very angry at half-time. I said that Frank Rijkaard should play a little deeper so Boban would be unsure whether to wait to pick up Rijkaard or to go forward. In the first 10 minutes of the second half we were playing better and, after the substitutions, we were much better and playing like the Ajax of all season.

"The difference between Milan in this game and the two games we played last autumn was that Milan adapted to our system. They changed their way of defending. Normally they play in one line, like a zone, but this time they put Boban on Rijkaard so he was playing – as the English say – in the hole. But we had expected that.

"Some people have suggested that there is a danger we will make our young boys play too many games. I don't think so. We will play the World Club Cup in Tokyo, no problem. When you love football you always want to play. I would still be playing myself if I could. But I'm 43. So I do this instead!

"All I know is that if you beat the holders of a trophy three times in one season then you deserve to be the holders instead. Not that this means the start of a new era – like Ajax in the 1970s. There are so many teams now who are capable of winning the Cup.

"I know about talk that our young players will go to southern Europe. That always happens with Ajax. It was the case in 1992 when we won the UEFA Cup and the boys went to the 'promised land.' Maybe now we have proved, by winning two European trophies in four seasons, that our players would do better by staying with Ajax than by going to other clubs."

FABIO CAPELLO (Milan coach): "In the first half we had more chances but we didn't take them. In the second half Ajax held possession much better but still they scored with the only shot they had on target.

"Particularly in the first half we didn't let them dictate the game. I don't think we deserved to lose on the night. In fact, I think we created more chances – the best in the 45th minute. But, having said that, Ajax didn't lose one game all the way through the Champions League so you can say they deserved to win the competition and all that's left for me is to congratulate them.

"As for our players, well, I picked the players I had available. It's no good wondering about what would have happened if Savicevic had been fit.

"And I left the substitution of Lentini for Boban so late because I had been worried in the first half that I would need to change Costacurta. As time went on I started to think about the possibility of extra time so I didn't want to commit my substitutes too soon.

"As for the Ajax changes, Kanu is a difficult player to keep under control and he created some problems for us. But so what? You can talk all night. It's only the result that counts. The rest is not important."

DO YOU REMEMBER HEYSEL . . . ?

NO-ONE wants to rake up the past to cause pain. No-one wants to raise memories which hurt just for the sake of it. Still, it would be wrong to ignore the 10th anniversaries of the Heysel Stadium and the Bradford fire disasters.

The causes were varied but related. Stadium neglect, in both Brussels and Bradford, exacerbated by complacency and thoughtlessness. In Brussels that permitted hooligan followers of Liverpool to drive Juventus supporters against, and then through, an old wall. Thirty-nine fans died in the crush.

At Bradford a cigarette end, it is assumed, ignited rubbish beneath an old wooden stand. The speed with which the fire spread matched the horror it produced. Fifty-six supporters died.

That adds up to 95 fans at two matches. Yet not 'merely' fans. But sons, brothers, fathers, wives, daughters, sisters. Real people, living real lives, who were, and are still, bitterly missed.

I was not at Bradford. But I was in the Heysel. I have not forgotten and I can never forget. Neither could anyone else. Or so I had thought.

Sadly, I cannot say the same for European football's administrators. True, UEFA's executive committee noted the anniversary and approved the donation of "a substantial sum" in memory of the victims of Heysel, to help needy children in war-torn Bosnia.

But where a gesture really mattered the most, in the most appropriate arena, there was . . . what?

At the very, very least, a one-minute silence should have preceded the 1995 Champions Cup Final. I repeat, at the very least. But there was nothing. No remembrance. Not, as far as the watching world knew, a thought.

Shame on you.

KEIR RADNEDGE

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

An efficient way to baffle fans

WHAT IS a coefficient? And is it efficient anyway?

This is a question which, judging by your letters, baffles readers and fans only as much as it baffles people inside the game.

The formula has been in the news because of UEFA's decision to streamline the system by which clubs and countries are seeded in its various competitions (The fact that the national champions of England and France – major commercial markets for sponsors and television – benefited by a sharp push up into the Champions League groups for next season was, we are assured, quite coincidental).

It works like this:

Once UEFA has received all entries for the following season's three competitions it computes a country's status by awarding two points for a win and one point for a draw for each result obtained by all that country's clubs over the past five seasons in Europe. A bonus point is awarded for progress into the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. These points are added up and divided by the number of matches played. The resulting figure is the so-called 'national coefficient'.

Seeding arrangements in the Champions League, Cup-winners Cup and UEFA Cup are then organised according to this coefficient. The allocation of places per country in the UEFA Cup is also computed through this system.

One complication is that the five-season rule runs a year behind itself. This is so that the vast majority of European nations whose seasons run from autumn to spring can know, at the start of term, how many UEFA Cup places are up for grabs.

The coefficient system as it affects seeding within the competitions, however, is run on an up-to-the-minute basis and can thus vary as a season progresses.

Two differences exist between the new system and the old. The first is that, in the past, preliminary round results were not taken into consideration. Now, because all three competitions have extensive preliminary rounds, they do count. Secondly, in the past a club could leapfrog up the seeding if its own coefficient was better than the national coefficient. Now that will no longer apply.

Under the old system of club alternatives, Ajax – had they not won in Vienna – would have been among the top eight Champions League seeds next season. Under the new system – had they not won in Vienna – they would have had to play in the preliminary round.

Got it?

Champions of Europe . . . Ajax celebrate in Vienna

Inter trouble

CONFUSION continues to reign over the UEFA-Intertoto Cup. Italy, Spain and Holland handed in notice of non-participation early and accepted the prospect of a fine. Since when, the issue has been consigned to the administrative dustbins in those countries.

In England, however, all manner of chaos arose over fears that future club competition participation could be jeopardised by a failure to provide three clubs. The reason for the difference? Italy, Spain and Holland pulled out BEFORE the draw; England was on the brink of pulling out AFTER the draw had been made.

In the event, Tottenham Hotspur, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday will play. On borrowed grounds. With borrowed players.

But then, the Intertoto has always been a competition in which competing western European clubs have put out second-string teams.

Football, the new breed of businessmen-chairmen tell us, is a business. So why should it shut down for a couple of months? Does any other commercial enterprise? Other businesses run through the summer holiday periods, why shouldn't football? Players and their agents are always justifying their large pay packets on the basis that it's a short career; now they want holidays as well?

Reluctant competitors . . . Tottenham and Wimbledon

Well, so the arguments run. I am not opposed to the Intertoto as such. I think it's a fascinating experiment as far as this year goes. But how it will work every other year, when it follows on, or even runs parallel with, the finals of a World Cup or European Championship, is another matter.

I tend to think that UEFA, to fill its expanded UEFA Cup, might be better off awarding each country two teams as a minimum rather than creating fair-play places and Intertoto places.

Still, we watch with interest.

An even bigger Sky

SKY goes international for the Copa America and it will be interesting to see how it adapts its coverage. Andy Gray's Cuarto del Utillero perhaps?

Hopefully, the event will not go unrecognised by BBC and ITV. After all, BBC claims its Cup Final broadcast outscored by 90 per cent Sky's coverage of the Premiership climax.

As we noted last month, there's a major soccer audience out there which is NOT tuned in to satellite or cable. And soccer means ratings. Why else are ITV into the Champions League?

Anyone who wants to improve their knowledge of the Copa America in the meantime might see if the specialist book sellers have copies of Andrzej Gowarzewski's latest statistical masterpiece which sets out the Copa America, goal by goal, match by match, line-up by line-up, right back to 1910

This latest volume in Gowarzewski's one-man statistical history of world football is entitled *Copa America* and is volume 13 in his Fuji Football Encyclopedia series. Text is in Polish but most of the book is statistical so the language barrier is minimal.

Another book worthy of mention here is the second edition of the Atlas Mondial du Football by Jean-Luc Kit and Alain Belaid (published by AMF Editions, BP 8, Chaumont/Yonne, 89340 France). All the basic demographic information you could want plus all past champions and cup-winners and championship structure. Ideal for the serious student of the world game.

Also on the statistical side, *The European Football Clubs and Players Records 1955-94* is a spiral-bound three-volume work featuring every club which has competed in European competition with all their results. A number of publications have addressed the subject but this appears the most comprehensive and easiest to get around. Further information from Terry O'Neill (39 The Wye, Grange, Daventry NN11 4PU).

Tyne and Weah

NEWCASTLE'S £6million splash on Les Ferdinand has all but wiped out memories of the strange affair of George Weah.

Now, anyone with the slightest knowledge of the European transfer market has know for the best part of the past year that Weah would be leaving Paris Saint-Germain to join Milan.

The deal was so secure that Milan's lawyers were sorting out his residency papers last November and persuading the Italian federation to consider Weah – when he arrived – as a European Union citizen (courtesy of French residency) rather than a non-EU citizen (which his Liberian football status should have meant).

This had to be resolved in advance because Italian clubs, though they may field up to three foreigners per match, may include a maximum of two non-EU players. Milan were worried that this rule would, if Weah were to be classed as Liberian, prevent him lining up alongside non-EU creators Zvonimir Boban and Dejan Savicevic.

The only people in the dark, it appears, about Weah were at Newcastle. Chairman Sir John Hall was publicly furious when a recent bid for Weah was apparently accepted by Paris Saint-Germain . . . in the full knowledge, not granted to Sir John or manager Kevin Keegan it seems, that Weah was Milan-bound.

In fact, not only was Weah Milan-bound, but Milan had formally announced their purchase THREE DAYS before Keegan took a flight to Paris in the apparent belief that Weah would soon be Newcastle's.

Hall and Keegan and their club were, perhaps, led up the garden path by Paris SG. But didn't they do their homework? Newcastle looked, in the aftermath, naive to say the least.

Everybody's exclusive

MEDIA-SPEAK is a strange language. Particularly where football is concerned. Just about everyone falls into the trap.

For instance, you know that when a chairman says he has "every confidence in Fred who will be our manager for many years to come," the P45 is always winging its way through the internal post.

Then there's that infernal word 'exclusive'. Originally, it meant either a story we've got all to ourselves or, to the cynical, a story nobody else wanted.

Now, consider the way most of the tabloids all hailed as 'exclusive' their simultaneous reports of the imminent arrival of Ruud Gullit at Chelsea. The lesson: when you see the word 'exclusive' it says this is a story which everybody else has got as well.

French farce

MANY Arsenal fans did not enjoy their visit to Paris for the Cup-winners Cup Final – and not only for the obvious reason.

Supporter Ian Castle has complained to UEFA president Lennart Johansson about the 40-minute wait they had after the final whistle before being 'released' from Parc des Princes and then the indiscriminate and unjustified manner in which the CRS riot police sprayed a mild form of tear gas over a crowd of men, women and children.

A number of aspects of French organisation in Paris were not particularly impressive. Hopefully the French, with the 1998 World Cup in mind, will learn from their mistakes.

Hopefully, also, UEFA will make a point of telling them . . . and FIFA.

All for charity

AN Italian cancer charity benefited at the Champions Cup Final from Marcel Desailly's award as Man of the Match.

Sponsors Eurocard-Mastercard promised a donation of $2,500 to the winner's chosen charity and Milan's squad, before the match, nominated the children's section of the Lega Italiana per la Lotta Contro i Tumori. If an Ajax player had won, the Dutch choice would have been the Dutch Cancer Society. More than $300,000 has now been handed over by Eurocard-Mastercard through its award-donation programme.

Surf city

ARE you surfing the soccer Internet?

WORLD SOCCER readers have been invited to join, as observers, the North American Soccer Mailing List (NA-Soccer). Start by contacting hoplite.org with the message subscribe na- soccer-digest.

Mystery coach

THE mystery man of world football is the coach who masterminded Argentina's World Youth Cup success: Jose Nestor Pekerman.

National boss Daniel Passarella even had his doubts about the man the AFA insisted on entrusting with the job. But nobody questions his competence any more.

Pekerman, 46, began playing for the youth section of Argentinos Juniors and was later sold to Independiente Medellin before retiring in 1977 with cartilage trouble.

In 1982 he returned to Argentinos Juniors as a youth coach and, after 10 months, took up the same role at Colo Colo in Chile. I wonder how long before he's coaching senior teams?

Wembley's way

ONE OF challenges facing the Millenium Fund commissioners will be, in effect, to decide on the site of the new national stadium. Manchester wants it; Birmingham wants it; Wembley wants it.

The problem for Manchester, as I see it, is that financial viability would need the regular presence of United and City. Both clubs are investing heavily in their own stadia and the fans would hardly thrill to the idea of sharing with the 'enemy'. As for Birmingham, the 'second city' already has the main national indoor arena.

That leaves Wembley.

Not the Wembley every foreign fan knows and loves and we all criticise. But a new Wembley. Retaining the twin towers but razing the rest and rebuilding from scratch. A worthy national stadium on the outskirts, appropriately, of the capital city.

Simple. Isn't that what most of the stadium's critics have been demanding all along, anyway?

Changing times

FIFA has moved the goalposts. Instead of waiting until June next year to decide on the hosts for the 2002 World Cup, the decision will be taken next January.

The world governing body has been growing increasingly concerned at the expenditure being invested by Japan and South Korea in an increasingly aggressive bidding battle.

French officials feared the 2002 struggle would overshadow the December draw for the qualifying rounds of their own World Cup in 1998.

Japan and South Korea have both welcomed FIFA's decision. They didn't have much choice, of course.

Who gains from the early decision? Japan, probably, since it cuts down the time available for the late-comer Koreans to narrow the campaigning gap.

Diego Lucero

DIEGO LUCERO has died, mourned as the Uruguayan journalist who had reported all 15 World Cups since the inaugural event in Montevideo.

Except that his name wasn't Diego Lucero – that was a nom de plume – and he wasn't Uruguayan – he merely lived and worked there in latter years – but Argentinian. He was, nevertheless, a fund of fascinating stories about the great old days of football on both banks of the River Plate.

A World Cup legend in his own write, so to speak.

The Old Lady of Italian soccer has regained her position at the top. But can Juventus stay out in front without the golden one, Roberto Baggio, who looks set to leave?

BY PADDY AGNEW

Re-Juvenation!

ARE Juventus about to take over where Milan left off? Hardly, we would suggest.

The 'Old Lady' of Italian soccer picked up her 23rd League title just three days before Milan's Champions Cup defeat to Ajax and went on to a record ninth Italian Cup win, beating Parma 3-0 on aggregate in the Final, thus becoming only the fourth team to complete the double.

All this inevitably led to speculation about the end of one winning cycle and the beginning of another.

On the day Juventus finally lifted the title, defeating season-long rivals Parma 4-0 in Turin, it was the Juventus coach Marcello Lippi who prompted thoughts of continued success, saying: "Obviously, this is just a starting point for all of us. Any of us who loses this will to work and win is in trouble . . . Before we go on holidays this year, I'll be telling my players that anyone who wants to slow down can stay at home and not bother to turn up for pre-season training."

Striker Gianluca Vialli (pictured), who along with Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa, striker Fabrizio Ravanelli and defender Ciro Ferrara must rank as a major artifact in the Juventus triumph, struck a similarily optimistic note, saying: "This Juventus is a worthy successor to the Milan side of some years ago coached by Arrigo Sacchi."

Fighting words, but for the time being we would suggest that Juventus owe their title success to consistency, solidity and determination rather than to world-beating class.

Gianni Mura of *La Repubblica*, one of the most astute of Italian soccer writers, put it succinctly enough: "The number of times that Juventus won matches in the last 10 minutes might suggest they were lucky but this is not so, it was their stubbornness, their refusal to accept a loss or even a draw that mattered. Juventus realised that with the three points for a win, a draw is not much use to anyone."

The latter point is born out by the final table which shows that Juventus lost just as many games as Parma (seven) but picked up their 10-point winning margin by winning five games that Parma drew.

Parma coach Nevio Scala probably spoke for many of his colleagues when he paid sporting tribute to his rivals on the day of their title success. He said: "Juventus deserved this title. I've no regrets, the best side won and for that reason I told all my players to go and shake hands with the Juventus players." It remains a moot point whether Scala would have been quite so magnanimous had not his Parma side defeated Juventus in the UEFA Cup Final, just four days before that title-winning Sunday. With a major European trophy to show for his season, Scala had avoided the very real risk of a 'so near and so far' year which might have seen Parma end up undeservedly empty-handed.

Watching the Juventus celebrations, however, it was obvious that one player, namely Roberto Baggio, seemed subdued. Baggio, of course, is the cloud currently darkening the happy Juventus landscape with his future at the club in serious jeopardy. Put simply, and as already reported here, Juventus want Baggio to accept a reduction in his annual wage, from $1.8million to $1.2million, as part of their austerity policy for the 1995-96 season.

Baggio understandably is unwilling to accept a wage reduction and the upshot of the standoff between the two parties is that The Little Prince of Italian soccer next season may be playing with Internazionale, Parma or Milan (in order of probability). Juventus, of course, argue that they have to introduce an austerity policy to avoid the company embarrassment of seeing the club owners, car giant FIAT, laying off workers while at the same time paying millionaire salaries to footballers.

Curiously, the same argument is not applied to Gianluca Vialli, who earns slightly more than $1.9 million.

But then Juventus would find it difficult to replace Vialli, while they already have a ready-made replacement for Baggio in Alessandro Del Piero,

On a high . . . siver-haired Ravanelli is acclaimed by his team-mates

Field of dreams . . . Juve faithful celebrate their title success

who deputised so ably for the Little Prince for four months that Juventus continued on winning ways.

Of course, Juventus and Parma were not the only sides to conclude the season on a satisfactory note. The 94-95 final tally was marked by the reaffirmation of two of the traditional power centres in Italian soccer with both Roman clubs, Lazio and Roma, and both Milan clubs, Milan and Internazionale, picking up the four UEFA qualifying berths.

Inter's UEFA qualification came thanks to a 90th-minute winner from striker Marco Delvecchio in a 2-1 defeat of Padova. It was a win which left the new president, petrol millionaire Massimo Moratti, promising to build a stronger side for next year. "We'll put together a good team that won't make us suffer so much to achieve a UEFA qualification ," he said. "On the other hand, you have to admit that this team had already done well to fight its way back up from the relegation zone. Europe is a major bonus."

The Inter reconstruction has already begun with the purchase of two young Argentinians, 22-year-old defender Javier Zanetti and 21-year-old striker Sebastian Rambert. Uruguyan Ruben Sosa, Dutchman Wim Jonk (to PSV Eindhoven) and Macedonian Darko Pancev are on their way, while the future of the club's other Dutch star, Dennis Bergkamp, depends on transfer moves for, above all, Roberto Baggio and, to a lesser extent, Manchester United's Paul Ince.

Lazio took second place ahead of Parma on goal difference. President Sergio Cragnotti denied that Dutchman Aron Winter, Croat Alen Boksic and striker Pierluigi Casiraghi would be leaving the club, adding: "This is a prestigious result and it improves on our fifth position of two years ago and our third place last year. If we keep on like this, we ought to win the title next year." The time for wishful thinking – the off season – has begun again.

● **FORMER** Milan midfielder Carlo Ancelotti has said he is quitting as No 2 to the Italian national team to take charge at Reggiana next season.

On a low . . . Baggio's future is in doubt

Dino's decider

1995 UEFA CUP FINAL – 2ND LEG

2ND LEG MILAN – MAY 17

JUVENTUS 1 — Vialli 33

PARMA 1 — D Baggio 53

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,750 **Ref:** Frans Van den Wijngaert (Bel)

Parma won 2-1 on aggregate

Juventus: Peruzzi - Ferrara, Jarni, Torricelli, Porrini, Paulo Sousa, Di Livio (Carrera 80), Marocchi (Del Piero 74), Vialli, R Baggio, Ravanelli.

Parma: Bucci - Benarrivo (Mussi 46), Di Chiara (Castellini 78), Minotti, Susic, Fernando Couto, Fiore, D Baggio, Crippa, Zola, Asprilla.

DINO BAGGIO, sold by Juventus at his own demand last year to Parma, came back to haunt his former club – and ultimately defeat them – in the all-Italian UEFA Cup Final.

Baggio (right) – no relation to Roberto – had scored Parma's winner in the first-leg victory and their decisive away goal equaliser in the second leg in Milan, Juve's home-from-home for the night.

That provided Parma with a 2-1 aggregate success and consolation for finishing runners-up to the Turin giants in the Italian league campaign – and subsequently in the Cup Final.

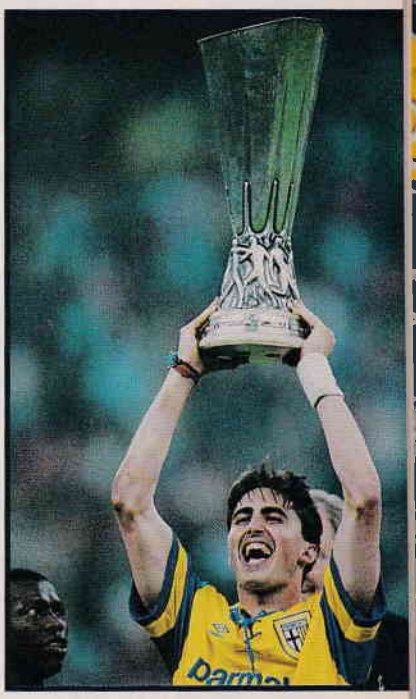
No doubt Parma and Juventus were sick of the sight of each other by the end of the season – the first leg was the first of five meetings in two months, a spell which also encompassed a meeting in Serie A and then the two-leg Italian cup final.

The less-acclaimed Baggio resolved the first leg by lobbing goalkeeper Michelangelo Rampulla from the edge of the Juventus penalty box.

The second leg was played in Milan's Stadio Meazza at San Siro where Juve staged their semi-final against Borussia Dortmund. They switched pending the resolution of complex negotiations with Turin council, owners of the Stadio delle Alpi, and the arena's promotional rights-holders.

Juventus dominated the opening exchanges in the second leg and appeared poised to turn the tie upside down when Gianluca Vialli volleyed home in the 33rd minute. But a combination of scrappy finishing and fine saves by Parma goalkeeper Bucci kept Juventus at bay, with the game pushed beyond their reach in the 53rd minute when Dino Baggio headed home a cross from substitute Roberto Mussi. "We were lucky this time," said Parma coach Scala after a bad-tempered match which saw seven players booked.

Juventus' early pressure paid off when a lobbed through pass from from Moreno Torricelli cleared the heads of the Parma defence and Vialli struck firmly inside the near post. That



goal sparked Parma into life with Colombian international Faustino Asprilla showing his pace down the left wing and Gianfranco Zola probing Juve's defence with some testing crosses.

Juve, with first-choice goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi back after injury, held Parma off until shortly into the second half when Mussi's cross was spectacularly headed in by the diving Dino Baggio. That goal secured Parma's first UEFA Cup and their third European trophy within three years, following their 1993 Cup-winners Cup victory against Anderlecht and subsequent Supercup win over Milan.

Juventus appeared to have forced their way back into the game when Torricelli shot home in the 80th minute but the 'goal' was disallowed.

Juve coach Lippi was magnanimous in defeat. He said: "We didn't take advantage of the opportunities that came our way. But Parma never gave us any space in which to work and, over the two matches, probably deserved their win."

There was certainly no doubt about who were worthy winners of the Cup Final. One-nil up from the first leg through a Sergio Porrini goal, Juve won the second leg 2-0 thanks again to a goal by Porrini plus one from the more likely source, Fabrizio Ravanelli.

● THREE Genoa fans died after suffering heart attacks in the relegation play-off against Padova as their team were condemned to Serie B.

Mirko Pilotti, 50 and Domenico Risso, 42, died after falling ill at Artemio Franchi stadium and Giuseppe Tolmino, 79, collapsed and died watching the game on television. Padova won 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

SPAIN

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Bosnian Meho Kodro, a £3.5million signing from Real Sociedad, could be just the man to put Barcelona back on track next season

On the move . . . Kodro interested a host of clubs

A different kettle of fish

SINCE Romario's departure from the Nou Camp in January, over 30 forwards have been labelled as apples of Johan Cruyff's eye. Nobody thought Cruyff would end up fancying a slice of Kodro.

Least of all the Barcelona treasurer, Xavier Aguilar, who publicly complained that £3.5million was an excessive price for a 28-year-old striker and was promptly informed by Cruyff that he knew "**** all" about football.

The men who did were John Toshack and his old crony at Swansea, Dzemal Hadziabdic. When Toshack was casting around for John Aldridge Mark II at the beginning of the 1991-92 season, his Bosnian mate came up with the striker from his local club, Velez Mostar, where Meho Kodro had scored 46 goals in 122 matches.

The £350,000 transfer was the break Kodro had been waiting for but at the same time tore him in two. At the height of the war in Bosnia, his family were still in the Mostar suburb of Buna and his first priority once he joined Toshack in San Sebastian was to get them out of Bosnia.

His parents are now with him while his wife Zemira's family have taken refuge in Germany. All are relieved that their daughter Dahlila, aged four, and two-year-old son Kenan have been spared close contact with a war which still horrifies Kodro.

He is a Moslem and says: "Bosnia has always been populated by Serbs, Croats and Moslems and Mostar was the town with the highest number of inter-ethnical marriages. The war has changed all that and all our family houses have just been razed to the ground. I can't bear to think about it."

The war explains why Kodro is something of an odd-man-out among Barcelona signings – a player with only two international caps. His debut was the second half of Yugoslavia's 4-3 defeat by Sweden in Stockholm in September 1991, his second cap in the 2-0 defeat by Holland in March 1992 – Yugoslavia's last fixture before the ban took hold.

Meho fell in love with San Sebastian but found the language barrier hard to surmount. For the first few weeks he was picked up from the hotel by Toshack's assistant Roberto Lopez Ufarte, with whom he spent many hours without exchanging a word. His first goal for Real Sociedad came against Real Madrid in the Bernabeu stadium but they were beaten 4-1.

You might remember that Aldridge had a fan club and they presented him with a hefty chunk of prime beef every time he scored a goal. A name like Kodro obviously demanded a fishier alternative, so the fans came up with a whole hake as a token of what you might call a love-hake relationship. Kodro must be the only striker who describes goalscoring as a piece of hake. Cruyff, in any case, was impressed with a haul of 70 hakes in almost four seasons for a fairly modest Real Sociedad side.

Barca bonus . . . Kodro the Nou Camp new boy

His explosive free-kicks have been baptised 'Kodrazos' and, with 25 goals at the time of writing, he is the only striker with any chance of overhauling Real Madrid's Ivan Zamorano. All of which explains why Real Sociedad were reluctant to let him go.

Indeed, they offered him an extension to the contract valid until 1997 and when Toshack heard of Barcelona's interest, he persuaded his new club, Deportivo, to make a bid.

In the event Cruyff's voice was more persuasive but Barcelona still had to put down that £3.5million fee which had been written into Meho's contract. With Luis Figo already signed from Sporting Lisbon and Gica Popescu lined up to replace Ronald Koeman, Kodro's arrival made it patent that Hristo Stoichkov, Gheorghe Hagi and the Russian Igor Korneyev were all likely to be offloaded during a major summer shake-up provoked by a season so miserable that in April Cruyff was admitting that the team's ceiling was a UEFA Cup place.

A run of one win in nine games didn't do much for that target either and Cruyff was sharply criticised in some quarters for exiling Koeman to the subs bench as soon as he confirmed his move to Feyenoord, sending Stoichkov into limbo and keeping him there while promoting youngsters like winger Oscar Arpon and midfielder Roger Garcia to the first team for crucial fixtures.

Even club president Josep Lluis Nunez felt moved to remark: "I don't understand how we can have five foreigners on our pay-roll and end up fielding none of them."

In the meantime there was a battle royal to decide whether Ivan De La Pena would stay on the payroll. The 19-year-old midfielder had confirmed at the World Youth Cup in Qatar that he was first-team material but Real and Atletico Madrid, Valencia and Sporting Gijon headed the queue of clubs prepared to offer him salaries vastly superior to the wage structures imposed by Cruyff.

The Dutchman had to use his persuasive powers once again to convince Ivan, his mum, dad and agent that the priority is to continue his learning process and that the money will come later.

Ivan, who was snapped up by Barcelona from his native Santander as a 15-year-old, finally agreed to stay for five years on a contract which, officially, is the same as those offered to the other youngsters. In the small print, however, are clauses which allow him to top up his earnings. He was promptly hauled off to start his military service in May, so judgments on the young Ivan must be reserved until next season.

The other sigh of relief in the Nou Camp was heard when Zaragoza beat Arsenal in Paris, thus opening up another UEFA Cup place for the half-dozen hopefuls. This may sound strange, but spare a thought for poor Victor Fernandez. Since Nayim's historic goal,

the capital of Aragon has gone wild about the first European title since the Fairs Cup in 1964 and he has been lumbered with the job of trying to keep feet somewhere near the ground.

Other managers have been moaning about similar problems but different causes. Transfer talk and managerial musical-chairs have taken over the headlines and, they complain, nobody seems to talk about football any more.

It has to be said that in recent weeks there's been precious little of it. Real Madrid's form has levelled off but, fortunately for Jorge Valdano, their slips have always been matched by their pursuers, to the extent that they were to seal the title with a 2-1 win over Deportivo ***(see below)***.

Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao (whose attempts to sign Tommy Svensson and Morten Olsen as coaches for next season have been aborted) have gone through very sticky patches, allowing outsiders such as Betis and Sevilla – thanks to a run of 14 points from a possible 18 – to consolidate UEFA Cup chances.

At the other end of the table, poor old Logrones were relegated on the day when they recorded their first home win for a year. The 4-2 defeat of Tenerife was some achievement for a side which had previously managed only nine goals all season.

Valladolid seem certain to join them but a full round-up of one of Europe's latest-finishing leagues will appear in *WORLD SOCCER* next month.

● **ONE PLAYER whose season finished very early was Michel.**

The Real Madrid midfielder was back in training after his cruciate ligament operation when liquid began to accumulate in the knee. Club president Ramon Mendoza ominously promised "drastic changes" in the club's medical services and Michel flew off to Belgium to join the list of top players who've parked their boots in the surgery of Marco Van Basten's friend, Doc Maertens.

● **VALENCIA, in a desperate bid to salvage a poor season by reaching the Spanish Cup Final, have sacked World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.**

The surprise announcement followed Valencia's disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Albacete in the first leg of the semi-final.

Parreira had just renewed his contract with the club for another season following speculation that he would take up a coaching position with the United States national team.

Assistant manager Jose Manuel Rielo has taken control on a caretaker basis.

● **ANOTHER of last year's World Cup managers, Argentina's Alfio Basile, is the latest victim at Atletico Madrid.**

Basile, who was appointed in February, was dismissed at the beginning of June and becomes the 27th managerial casualty under the autocratic rule of Jesus Gil.

CAMPEON!

REAL MADRID clinched their 26th Spanish League title, their first since 1990, and in doing so ended Barcelona's run of four championships on the trot.

Their 2-1 victory over second-placed Deportivo, the only team capable of catching them, was watched by 105,000 estatic fans at the Bernabeu stadium. Chilean Ivan Zamorano's goal 10 minutes from time sealed the game for Jorge Valdano's side after La Coruna's Bebeto had equalised Amavisca's first-half opener.

The Vulture spreading his wings

REAL MADRID have embarked on market prospections prompted not only by doubts over Michel but also the departure of Emilio Butragueno, which marks the end of an era.

A testimonial against Roma was arranged for the 31-year-old Vulture's final flap in the Bernabeu stadium on June 15. "The most painful sentence I have ever had to pronounce," he says, "was the announcement that I am leaving this club on June 30. Real Madrid has been my life and the sadness began to set in when Valdano didn't include me in the 16 to play the first leg of the Copa del Rey tie against Atletico. I won't be playing any more in the Spanish League but I don't rule out continuing my career in another country."

Butragueno will be missed. His ball skills, his ability to twist and turn past opponents in the box and his imaginative finishing have been accompanied by an almost timid politeness which marries perfectly with his off-pitch image as a bespectacled economics student. The cultured vulture has feasted on five League titles, two Copas del Rey, three Supercopas, one Copa de la Liga and two UEFA Cups since his first-team debut on February 5, 1984.

Apart from that collection of silverware, he was third in the European Footballer of the Year voting in 1986 and 1988 and represented Spain on 69 occasions, including the 1986 World Cup finals, when he scored four against Denmark in Queretaro, the 1990 finals in Italy and the 1984 and 1988 European Championships.

"The one thing that rankles is not having won the Champions Cup," he admits. "We had our golden chance in 1988 because we should have beaten PSV in the semi-final instead of drawing both legs."

The Butragueno star began to wane when Javier Clemente took over as national team manager and announced that he and his 'clan' had produced some pretty football but had never actually won anything. Clemente threw the Vulture one solitary crumb – 59 minutes during the 0-0 draw with the Republic of Ireland in Seville on November 18, 1992. He bowed out with 26 goals in 69 games.

At Real, Jorge Valdano inherited the unpleasant job of pensioning off the club's living legend. On arriving last summer, pre-season checks showed him that Butragueno could no longer bear too much comparison with the rest of the squad in terms of physical resources. At 31, he still feels capable of playing – maybe in a less competitive league – but, with opponents having had a decade to study his modus operandi, he was finding life increasingly difficult in Spain. He has conducted his farewell in typically dignified fashion.

Real wrench . . . Butragueno on the way out

Germany

Banking on Klinsmann

BAYERN MUNICH prised Jurgen Klinsmann from Tottenham – just as the German media had been predicting for months.

But the British tabloids, who had trumpeted in their 'exclusives' that the striker would be returning to Germany at the end of the season, swung viciously against him.

They accused Klinsmann of "running out" on Tottenham, calling his departure a "stab in the back" and "treachery". Klinsmann's version of the story was somewhat different.

He says he had signed a one-year contract with Tottenham with an option for another 12 months. But when Bayern came in with an offer to raise his salary, a signing-on-bonus, the prospect of European football next season and assurances about a lucrative occupation when he finishes his playing career, how could he refuse?

The financial arrangements were officially not disclosed, making any figures publicised pure speculation, but Klinsmann explained: "I am nearly 31 and I have to think about my future. I want to be near my family and end my footballing days in Germany. Bayern gave me a three-year contract and will help to establish me in a secure job. I shall finish playing after the 1998 World Cup."

Under new team manager Otto Rehhagel, Bayern will build a new team around Klinsmann and new signings Thomas Strunz, Ciriaco Sforza and Andy Herzog. The long-term injured, Lothar Matthaus, Jean-Pierre Papin and Emil Kostadinov, will all be fit for the new campaign in which Bayern will mount a powerful challenge for the title and their main goal – the Champions Cup.

Bayern received a setback when the DFB deducted two points off their total for fielding one amateur player too many in a 5-2 away win over Eintracht Frankfurt. They lost ground in the title race but are still on course for a UEFA Cup place.

The new title favourites are Werder Bremen, who knocked Borussia Dortmund off their perch, beating them 3-1.

The Werderaner have ambitious plans for next season. New team chief, the Dutchman Aad de Mos, and general manager Willi Lemke, travelled to South America recently where they made contact with Brazilian and Chilean players. Top of the shopping list was Brazilian Junior Baiano, who would cost a cut-price £1.2million. The League leaders are watching the transfer market in Europe diligently. They appeared interested in Klinsmann, but apparently shied away from his wage demands.

Top of pile . . . Werder Bremen on way to a 3-1 win over Dortmund

Bayern boy . . . offer was too generous for Klinsmann to refuse

Klinsmann remains a vital cog in the German national side and, in the absence of the indisposed Matthaus, is still the captain. He regrets the team's recent poor performances, particularly the insipid 1-1 draw with Wales in Dusseldorf. He admitted he had a "stinker", not scoring for the first time in the current Euro '96 campaign, after hitting five goals in the previous four matches.

Klinsmann didn't want to make excuses but the fact remains that the Germans had to replace injured key men like Matthaus, Matthias Sammer, Thomas Helmer, Jurgen Kohler and Andy Moller, the latter suspended internally. Yet they still made a hatful of chances which went begging.

Now the German fans, the media and even some players are losing interest in the national team. Sixty per cent of regular supporters have voted Berti Vogts the most unpopular manager in history, and are demanding his resignation.

Even so the Germans have won four and drawn one of their European Championship qualifying ties, admittedly against modest opposition, and are almost certain to qualify for the finals in England next year.

But that is the great paradox in German football. The Bundesliga is boasting nearly the highest attendances in Europe, with close on 30,000 per match. But the national side, once the pride and joy of the nation and still with the best overall record in Europe, is fiercely criticised.

Uli Hoeness, the former international and World Cup winner in 1974, now general manager of Bayern Munich, reminds the public: "I foresaw the trend of club before country years ago. Our clubs now have the money to create super teams and these will over-

Switzerland

Violence mars title run-in

SWISS football is still reeling from the outbreak of hooliganism which marred the League match between Luzern and Basel.

A group of 20-30 reportedly hurled rockets and fireworks into a section occupied by Luzern supporters, 15 of whom were injured, with three needing hospital treatment.

Some blamed the police for allowing the gates to be opened three hours before the kick-off. The impatient fans, many of them drunk, became more and more aggressive. According to the authorities some of the hooligans had come over from neighbouring Germany. Switzerland's reputation as a peaceful country has certainly taken a knock.

In the championship the Grasshopper moved unstoppably towards their 23rd title, while promoted Basel made a determined challenge for a UEFA Cup place. Basel, the best supported team in the country, have to go back 15 years for their last success in the League.

Team manager Claude Andrey, 44, a former international, has assembled a strong team, with a Danish sweeper Olsen and Bosnian playmaker Smajic, both 33 with bags of experience, and former Swiss international goalkeeper Huber.

The national side's unexpected 2-1 defeat at home to Turkey, who took over the leadership in their European Championship qualifying group, rocked the hitherto unbeaten Swiss. They missed injured strikers Chapuisat, Knup, and Subiat, plus midfielder Yakin and Turkyilmaz, but that alone doesn't excuse their first home defeat since April 1992.

The plain fact is that the Swiss appeared tactically naive and were never able to unlock a surprisingly solid Turkish defence. Up front the experimental duo of Grassi and Bonvin struggled vainly, bereft of ideas.

● SION won the Swiss Cup with a 4-2 victory over title favourites Grasshopper in the final in Bern.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

shadow the national team and attract the biggest crowds. The national side in its traditional form has no future. Already television is no longer concentrating on the internationals but on club matches in the Bundesliga and European club competitions."

German experts blame the loss of popularity of the national team on Berti Vogts' poor leadership. The country's mass circulation daily Bild-Zeitung accuses: "The dour and introverted coach seems to lack authority. He has been nearly five years in office and has won nothing."

The Germans are not used to long periods of failure. Vogts' four predecessors, Sepp Herberger (1936-63), Helmut Schon (1964-78), Jupp Derwall (1978-84) and Franz Beckenbauer (1984-90) have all won either the World Cup, or the European Championship, or both. Vogts had promised to rejuvenate the squad but he only picks new talent when his veterans are unavailable.

The recent teams appeared devoid of personalities, passion and technique. Midfield schemer Andy Moller explains: "We have lost a lot of prestige. We can only hope to restore our image by winning trophies." Koln's manager Morten Olsen, Denmark's record capped player, points out: "Berti's biggest problem is that he cannot afford to lose a match."

A most worrying aspect is the increase in the number of players who are turning down the call to national colours. Thomas Berthold, captain of VfB Stuttgart, says: "I can't recall so many player withdrawals for the flimsiest of reasons."

Vogts said: "In some matches, mainly friendlies, not every player has been putting in 100 per-cent effort. The clubs too are becoming more difficult than ever when it comes to releasing candidates. Recently we lost seven regulars before a vital match."

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Austria

Rapid in the clear

RAPID VIENNA have bravely set their financial worries aside to become the surprise challengers in the championship stakes.

Because of heavy debts players have had to be sold, no big signings allowed and new team manager Ernst Dokupil was ordered to start from scratch.

He built a young side around the classy playmaker Dietmar Kuhbauer, now a regular in the national side and a sprinkling of cheaply hired foreigners, like the Pole Sliwowski, the Russian Mandreko and the Slovenian Jermanis. They are now the pillars of the 'Hutteldorfer' outfit.

Dokupil also introduced perhaps the most unusual custom in European football. Before every match the Rapid players draw out their shirt numbers to confuse the opposition. In the match against Linzer ASK the strikers wore nos. 15, 17 and 28, Jermanis picked number 77, while Mandreko chose No. 99, the number worn by his North American League ice hockey idol Wayne Gretzky! The 'spell' worked and the green-and-whites remained unbeaten for weeks.

More trouble was brewing at FK Austria. The controversial German team manager Egon Coordes will leave at the end of the season, the latest row coming when, after losing eight regulars from his team through injury, Coordes sent some of them to Germany to be treated at Bayern Munich. When FK's medical chief protested, Coordes banned him from the dressing room.

There is a crisis, too, at FC Tirol. They lost their financial benefactor, Klaus Mair, who is being charged with embezzlement. Having signed top players such as Sammy Sane, Harald Cerny, Peter Stoger and team manager Hans Krankl, the Tyroleans must now find the money to pay their inflated wages.

● RAPID VIENNA set up the possibility of pulling off the double when they beat DSV Leoben 1-0 in the Austrian Cup Final.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Herrlich comes of age

Bob Vaughan on the latest striker to get the call-up from Berti Vogts

HE'S YOUNG, he's the Bundesliga's leading scorer as the championship goes to the wire and, to cap it all, Herrlich means magnificent. So the German headline writers have been having a field day.

This season has been Heiko Herrlich's best for Borussia Monchengladbach and his goals have been crucial to the 'Fohlenelf' reaching the German Cup Final and securing a UEFA place to bring back European football to the Boekelberg.

It has not always been honey and roses for the striker from Baden in the south-west of the country. After teenage football with local clubs FC Kollnau, FC Emmendingen and SC Freiburg, he moved to the big time with Bayer Leverkusen, making his debut in 1989-90 but not troubling the scorers' list in 16 appearances.

The following season, his first full campaign, brought three goals, as did 1991-92. In 1992-93 he was on the bench, goalless but the winner of a Cup medal when his colleagues struggled to defeat Hertha Berlin Amateur in the Olympic Stadium.

That same summer, with the competition for places hotting up at the Ulrich-Haberland-Stadion, Heiko had the chance to move to Gladbach, where he has been the striking partner of Martin Dahlin ever since.

The modest Heiko has not been visibly affected by his success this season, which has brought him international recognition from Berti Vogts, with a debut against Georgia and a goal against Wales in Dusseldorf.

Then there is the Cup Final to look forward to. It is Borussia's chance to lift the pot for the first time since 1973 and the days of Netzer, Vogts and the legendary manager 'Hennes' Weisweiler. More importantly, a victory over Bundesliga Two hopefuls VfL Wolfsburg would erase the memory of defeat three seasons ago, when Hannover 96 took the Cup 4-3 on penalties after a goalless 120 minutes. That was before Heiko's time but there is a lot resting on his shoulders and those of Dahlin.

The unassuming Heiko will have calmly dealt with whatever requests are made of him on and off the field.

PRO-FILE
HEIKO HERRLICH
BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH AND GERMANY
Born December 3, 1971
Previous clubs FC Kollnau, FC Emmendingen, SC Freiburg, Bayer Leverkusen
International debut March 29, 1995, v Georgia, Tbilisi (won 2-0)
International caps 3
International goals 1
HONOURS
German Cup 1993

Going places . . . Herrlich is Bundesliga's new hot-shot

Privately, he leads a quiet life with wife Sangita and attends bible classes. A Renault 5 suffices as his transport but what if the rumoured offer comes from Parma to be Asprilla's successor?

It might be good business in one sense for Borussia, who paid what now seems a modest 1million marks for Heiko but the League's leading scorer will not be easily replaced.

France

A whimper not a bang

Andre Duclos on how the French season stuttered to an anticlimactic close

WELL, at least the national team turned up trumps at the end of the season. It was some kind of consolation for all the things that were going wrong.

That's if you think that the judge's sentencing of 'Teflon' Tapie to double what the prosecution requested, for fixing the Marseille match against Valenciennes, is bad rather than good. I'll take the Fifth Amendment on that.

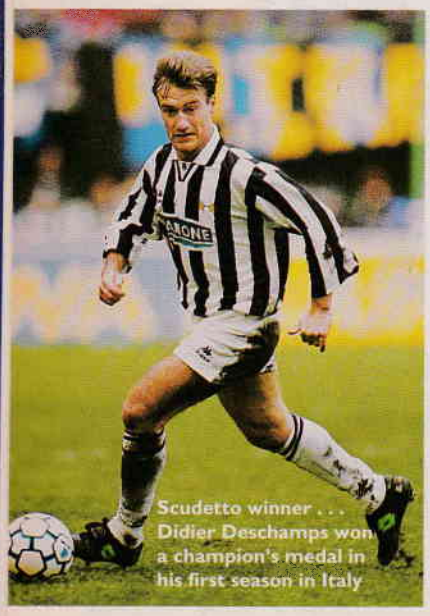
Very depressing was the anticlimactic nature of Paris Saint-Germain's season. Winning the League Cup and French Cup, the latter with a surprising amount of difficulty, was no real consolation for the flop against Milan in the Champions Cup, and the dismal fading of George Weah, who was ultimately booed by the fans who used to worship him.

Weah is now definitely off to Milan, and might well be followed abroad by David Ginola, for whom Barcelona have now seemingly made inquiries.

Nantes walked away with the championship, but can it be seriously suggested that they have a true chance of emulating PSG in next season's Champions Cup?

Not least when there are stories, which may or may not have been made flesh by the time you read this, that star goalscorer Patrice Loko could be playing for PSG next season? Meanwhile that excellent attacker Reynald Pedros has said that he too might move on.

With so many French players excelling in the difficult Italian League, there is surely room for optimism, quite apart from the comfortable 4-0 win in Nantes over a Slovakian side who put up scant resistance.



Scudetto winner . . . Didier Deschamps won a champion's medal in his first season in Italy

It was heartening to see Didier Deschamps, out for so long this season with injury, so skilfully take his goal, from Roberto Baggio's diabolic back heel, when Juventus thrashed a phlegmatic Parma team 4-0 to make sure of their first title for nine years.

Marcel Desailly has been in imposing form this year for Milan, and few who saw it will forget the way he muscled his way through to make the second goal for Dejan 'The Genius' Savicevic, when PSG were so easily beaten in the Champions Cup at San Siro.

Jocelyn Angloma has had an excellent season as a flying full-back with Torino, not the easiest team to play for. The daily pressure of the fans, he says, is still something new and strange to him. He had a tough time at first, which elicited harsh comments from the stands. "Go back to France" being among them.

You had to be tough, he admits, but he and another former star of the French League, the Ghanaian Abedi Pele, came through. Now, says Angloma, when he gets the ball, "the crowd trembles," which gives him a charge. "I try tremendous things, shots from long range, crazy runs. I dribble. The result is that I've finished the season fresh, without excessive fatigue, despite all the big clashes."

Desailly emphasises that there is no great difference in the training at Milan from what he was used to at Marseille, and that when he arrived at Milan in the middle of last season he was able to adapt without difficulty. He insists that physical preparation is not what makes the big teams better than the others. It is "their tactical advantage, their mental strength and the great talent of their players."

Deschamps talks chiefly of the disciplines imposed by Juventus on their players. How they have to dress in special gear, how they are not allowed to criticise other clubs in the press, for fear of being fined or worse still, dropped from the team, of how they cannot even get up from the meal table to serve themselves; though this is one thing he still tends to do.

You wonder what Juventus would have said had the recent, remarkably indiscreet and unfettered, utterances by PSG's Vincent Guerin on playing for the French national team been made by Deschamps or any other of their players, about them.

True, the midfielder was in a pretty strong position after his performance against Slovakia; one excellent goal and two crucial passes. But Guerin made no bones about the fact that after being picked and dropped in the past, he still wasn't wholly reconciled to being in the French team.

National star. . . PSG's Vincent Guerin starred in France's 4-0 win over Slovakia

It's precisely because he had such a good game, he says, that he feels so frustrated about what happened to him in the past.

"You want to know whether I like this French team a bit better now. Alas, no. I have suffered too much. I have been through too much. One day perhaps I'll love it. But it's still too soon."

- NANTES ended the season with a 1-1 draw with Lyon. The result meant the runaway champions completed the season with just one League defeat.
- THE MAYOR of Marseille, Robert Vigouroux, has taken control of Olympic Marseille. He headed a consortium which offered £4.1million as a guarantee to prevent the former European champions from going into liquidation. Although Marseille finished in Division Two's promotion places, their current financial plight means they stay in the second division next season.

Belgium

Anderlecht on top

ANDERLECHT'S third successive title triumph, their eighth in 20 years and 24th in all, will not be remembered with any great affection by the coach, most of their players or for that matter, the police.

Four officers were hurt as rival fans clashed in Ghent when Anderlecht secured the 2-0 victory which meant they could not be caught by either of their rivals, Standard Liege and Club Brugge, who by coincidence met on the last day, Standard also winning 2-0.

Even though the championship race went to the wire, it was denounced by Raymond Goethals. The wise old man of Belgian football, who is bowing out of the game at 73, said before the decisive fixtures: "The season wasn't very interesting because the participants were so weak. Whoever wins the title will not be worthy champions."

With everything now geared to success in Europe, Anderlecht, who have made little impression in the Champions Cup these past two seasons, parted company with coach Johan Boskamp. His successor, the German Herbert Neumann, from Vitesse Arnhem in Holland, arrives with the knowledge that Anderlecht will have to start off in the Champions Cup preliminary round in August.

By then they should have some new players: De Boeck, the Mechelen sweeper, De Bilde, Aalst's goal-scoring revelation, Karagiannis, Seraing's international midfielder, and the Beveren goalkeeper, De Vlieger.

Which means that the nucleus of the side good enough to finish top in Belgium, but nowhere in Europe, will surely be on its way. Among them will be Marc Degryse, possibly to Celtic.

De Bilde, incidently, lost out by one to Aurelio Vidmar in the race to finish as the season's top marksman. The 28-year-old Australian Vidmar, whose two goals for Standard on the last day took him to 22, is one man who is staying put. He says he is content for the time being to resist the lure of Italian football.

- THE NATIONAL side's chances of reaching the Euro '96 finals improved with a 5-0 win in Macedonia.
- COMPENSATION for Club Brugge for missing out on the title came with their triumph in the Cup Final. They beat Ekeren 3-1 with first-half goals from Claessens and Vermant, followed by another by De Brul after M'Gnoghi had pulled one back for Ekeren.
- CLUB BRUGGE'S Cup victory was good news for Lierse, who now enter the UEFA Cup with Standard Liege and Aalst. Lierse finished level on points with Ekeren, but with 14 wins to the Cup runners-up's 12.

NICHOLAS HARLING

Holland

New kids waiting in the wings

KANU and Kluivert may have been the stars of Ajax's triumphant night in Vienna, but as far as the new European champions are concerned, there are many more where they came from.

Ajax, who retained their League tittle without losing a single game, have always blooded graduates from their soccer academy early. If they're good enough, they're old enough. The latest generation are no exception and have been keeping more experienced players out of the team all season.

Peter Van Vossen, a striker, and midfielder John Van den Brom, are both Dutch internationals. Yet for Van Vossen, most of the season has been spent on the bench. And for Van den Brom the second team has occupied most of his attention.

And yet what does manager Louis Van Gaal do? He goes and signs as full professionals two goal-scoring strikers from the Ajax soccer school. Both have signed for three years. Kiki Musamp is 18 and can play in midfield as well as up front. Dennis Schulp is a 17-year-old striker who has been top scorer with the Under-18s. Remember the names.

Another product of Ajax's famous youth system made a dramatic return from injury to appear in the Champions Cup Final. Young midfielder Edgar Davids had an eye operation in March, and although he kept himself fit on the training ground, Van Gaal didn't expect to see him in action again this season.

Young gun . . . Edgar Davids of Ajax

The medical staff came up with the perfect answer. They got themselves a special set of glasses from America, which are often used in basketball games. So Davids was available for selection.

As reported last month, Feyenoord have got Ronald Koeman for a couple of years on a free transfer from Barcelona. Thanks to the good terms of the 'free', all is well with club and player.

Apart from Koeman's arrival, there has been little action on the transfer market for Feyenoord. This was partly due to chief coach Willem Van Hanegem being ordered by hospital specialists to stay at home and rest. His condition was said to be pleurisy.

Hungarian international striker Jozsef Kiprich had to spend a few days under observation in the heart section of the hospital. But he was given the all clear and now plans to move to Cyprus this summer.

Like Feyenoord, PSV have not been active on the transfer front, although they do have Wim Jonk. The 28-year-old midfielder was signed from Internazionale for £1.5million. Coach Dick Advocaat sees Jonk as the man to organise his midfield, as he used to do with Ajax.

- THE NATIONAL side crashed 1-0 to Belarus in their latest Euro '96 qualifier.
- FEYENOORD retained the Dutch Cup when they beat Volendam 2-1 in the Final in Amsterdam.
- THE Dutch Federation has said supporters of all First Division clubs must carry ID cards next season.

ERIC NICHOLLS

Old hand . . . Ajax striker Peter Van Vossen

Portugal

Robson's choice

LAST MONTH we wrote that Bobby Robson had the Portuguese title in his pocket for Porto. We were not wrong.

It is all done now, and the Oporto club will represent Portugal in next season's Champions Cup.

Sporting Lisbon had a chance to influence things – they needed to beat Porto at the Alvalade stadium and force the leaders into a late run of losses. But Robson had certain accounts to settle and he made absolutely sure that everything went according to his script.

On the day the Lisbon team were no match for the new champions. So the English manager was able to register his first Portuguese title in the stadium where it had all begun.

Sporting had attracted Robson to Portugal only to give him the sack, in despair at not winning the title, two years ago. Sporting were leading the table and Robson was an offended man. But he accepted the offer that came from Porto and won the Cup – and now he has won the League. Actions speak louder than words.

Robson's success renewed speculation that he would return to England, to Arsenal, for one last crack at the English title. With Arsenal's appointment of Bruce Rioch, Porto were set to hang on to Robson.

It is now 13 years since Sporting Lisbon were last champions. So what do they do? They change their board of directors. The new chairman will be the former Minister of Culture, Santana Lopes.

Lopes has renewed the club's contract with manager Carlos Queiros and begun a search for players by attempting, in vain, to sign Niall Quinn from Manchester City.

Meanwhile Benfica are trying to repair the damage suffered during a terrible season. Old names are leaving: Veloso, Paneira and possibly Isaias. Caniggia, who failed to impress, is likely to return home to Argentina, to play for Boca Juniors.

Edilson, a successful Brazilian, is wanted by several clubs in his home country. Coach Artur Jorge is staying because the Lisbon Eagles cannot afford to show him the door, but Mario Wilson has been recalled from Morocco to become his assistant.

Three clubs from the Second Division will join the elite next season. Two are already known: Campomaironense and Leca. The third will come from Felgueiras, Pacos de Ferreira or Estoril.

Everybody is betting on Felgueiras. It has been alleged that the club have been protected by referees, who awarded them more than 20 penalties in games which could have easily been lost.

Some say Felgueiras are swimming in money from the shoe industry and that the shoe tycoons want a First Division club to promote their merchandise at home and abroad.

Others, meanwhile, cannot accept this explanation of Felgueiras' success. The fact remains that their manager is a certain Mr Jesus . . .

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Republic of Ireland

Delight for Derry

DERRY CITY made up for the disappointment of losing the League Championship on the last day of the season by winning the FAI Harp Lager Cup.

The Candystripes beat Shelbourne 2-1 at Lansdowne Road in a game that will not be remembered for the standard of football.

The FAI was once again disappointed with the attendance (14,000) and next year may opt to play the Final on a Friday or Saturday night rather than a Sunday afternoon.

Athlone Town preserved their Premier Division status, but had to resort to penalties to do so after two scoreless draws with First Division Finn Harps.

It would have been an embarrassing defeat for Athlone manager Michael O'Connor, who went on record as saying that the First Division should be scrapped!

The First Division is 10 years old and Kilkenny City set a new record by not winning a game. The last team to go through a season without winning were Bohemians in 1959-60, when there was just one division.

Now Bohemians are the first FAI National League team to qualify for the Intertoto Cup and The Gypsies are very happy with the draw. The Dublin club will be at home to French and Portuguese clubs and away to clubs from Finland and Sweden. The home draw should guarantee lucrative television rights.

Liam Coyle was the PFAI's Player of the Year and the Derry striker also picked up the Soccer Writers' Personality of the Year award.

SEAN CREEDON

Denmark

Elkjaer in shock move

PREBEN ELKJAER, the legendary striker from Denmark's dynamite side of the 1980s, has stunned everyone by agreeing to become manager of Silkeborg.

The 37-year-old had carved out a successful media career as a TV pundit with the TV2 station. But he announced out of the blue that he would take up the challenge of leading unfashionable Silkeborg.

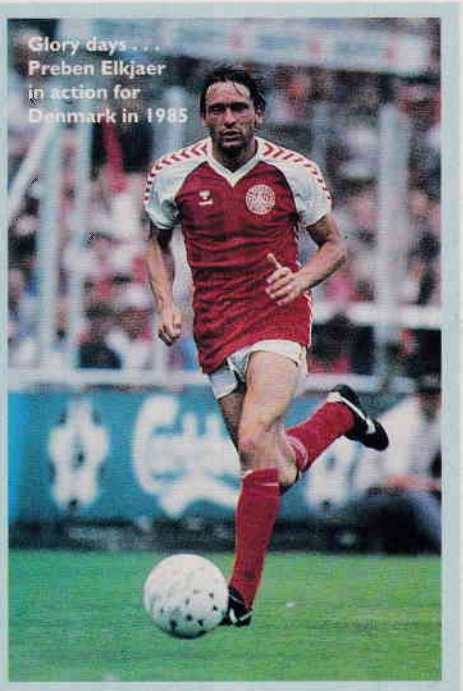
The club from Jutland may be Denmark's reigning champions – and with four rounds left were still in with a chance of retaining their title – but Elkjaer, the bullish striker who thrilled fans all round the globe, did not seem the management type.

"It wasn't something I had actively considered. But when Silkeborg approached me, it stirred my thoughts," he said. "It is a challenge which, if I hadn't taken up, I might have regretted later."

Elkjaer consulted his old national manager Sepp Piontek before accepting the offer. The irony is that Piontek himself returns to club football in Denmark in July when he takes charge at Aab Aalborg.

Aab were favourites to clinch this year's title. They were one point ahead of Brondby with four games left. Silkeborg were a further two points adrift. The Aalborg club have been inspired by the goalscoring exploits of Erik Bo Andersen, who was on target to collect a 40,000 kroner reward for reaching 25 League goals.

Andersen, 24, had 21 goals going into the final month of the season and is being watched by a number of top European clubs, along with Brondby's Mark Strudal and Bo Hansen.



Glory days . . . Preben Elkjaer in action for Denmark in 1985

Denmark's win against Macedonia, thanks to a goal from Peter Nielsen, has revived hopes of reaching Euro '96 in England. The crunch match will now be away in Belgium on September 6.

● DENMARK beat Finland 1-0 in a friendly in Helsinki. It proved to be useful preparation for the Euro '96 qualifier against Cyprus, which Richard Moller Nielsen's side won 4-0.

JIM HOLDEN

Sweden

Svensson stays put

NATIONAL TEAM supremo Tommy Svensson has turned down an offer to coach Spain's Athletic Bilbao.

The move would have guaranteed him a basic salary of over £30,000 a month, but Svensson says: "Although this was very tempting, I cannot accept. "This job has more important values to me than money."

Sweden – and Svensson – are facing an uphill battle in the European Championship qualifiers, having lost three away games, to Switzerland, Turkey and Hungary, and most recently, having a disppointing 1-1 home draw with Iceland.

Svensson has been criticised for constant chopping and changing, but he has been unlucky with injuries and suspensions.

Tomas Brolin has been sorely missed, but is now on the way back. Martin Dahlin and Joachim Bjorklund were suspended for the dismal 1-0 defeat in Budapest, and Jonas Thern was injured.

Little Halmstad, 3-1 winners over AIK Solna in the Cup Final, provided the squad with four players. Midfielders Niclas Alexandersson and Niklas Gudmundsson, as well as striker Robert Andersson, all made appearances, while defender Jesper Mattsson, a recent buy from Hacken, was a sub.

Halmstad, under former international striker Mats Jingbladh, have made a bright start to the season, unlike IFK Gothenburg, who have won only once in eight games.

● JOHNNY EKSTROM is to join Eintracht Frankfurt, his sixth professional club, from Dynamo Dresden.

● WORLD CUP goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli could be fined and receive a long suspension after making racist remarks to AIK Stockholm's black forward Pascal Simpson in a recent League game.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Greece

Violence escalates

THE GREEK government is urgently looking at ways to ease tensions between rival clubs as all-out war between fans threatens to break out.

Fights on and off the pitch, the beating-up of two First Division referees and explosive public statements by team officials have provided the spark which could spell disaster for sport in Greece.

Sports minister George Lianis called on sports federations to be tough in dealing with violence and the Greek Soccer Federation took the first step by penalising AEK and Panathinaikos for clashes between their supporters at the Greek Cup Final.

AEK will play their next three home games without spectators and five of their players received two-match bans for refusing to receive their Cup runners-up medals after losing to Panathinaikos 1-0.

AEK president Dimitris Melissanidis was banned from attending matches for six months and fined 500,000 drachmas for explosive statements he made about the referee, who was beaten by players after the match and by eight thugs two weeks later outside Athens Airport.

Referees throughout the country boycotted League matches in protest at the incidents.

Panathinaikos were given a one-match suspension by the federation for their part in events at the Cup Final and will play one match without spectators. Club president George Vardinoyiannis was banned for a month from attending matches and fined 250,000 drachmas for his part in a shoving match with a police officer.

Eight Panathinaikos supporters were arrested after police raided a local supporters club and found petrol bombs, knives and clubs.

The arrests came shortly after a 25-year-old Panathinaikos basketball supporter was stabbed to death in the main square of the Athens seaside resort of Glyfada by a drug addict who claimed to be an AEK fan.

Meanwhile, the second First Division referee to be beaten up in less than a month at Athens Airport, Alekos Naziris, said he was attacked by Doxa Drama coach Nikos Michaildis. The coach reportedly punched Naziris as he was eating at the airport's restaurant, angry at his officiating of the Ethnikos Piraeus-Doxa Drama match earlier.

● ZAIREAN Mugade Cjimaga, of Atromitos of Athens, who collapsed during a Third Division match, died following an accumulation of fluid in his lungs. It was alleged that neither a doctor nor an ambulance was available at the ground and there was an excessive delay in transporting the player to hospital.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Malta

Hibs again

HIBERNIANS are Premier League champions for the second year running and for the eighth time in their 63-year history.

Their triumphant 6-0 end-of-season demolition of relegated St. George's crowned another memorable term for Brian Talbot and his boys.

Apart from the Hibernians' superiority at the top, the end of season was characterised by a bizarre series of results. Second-placed Sliema unexpectedly lost 5-0 to Valletta, while Naxxar Lions beat Floriana 3-1 to avoid relegation.

Pieta Hotspurs and St George's went down to play Division One football next term, with St. Patrick and Rabat Ajax replacing them.

Englishman Karl Saunders of Sliema finished as the season's top scorer with 18 goals.

Carmel Busuttil's dispute with the Maltese FA was still going on and he has confirmed that he will quit the national team if he is not given back the captain's armband. He was stripped of the captaincy for not wearing the Association's sponsored footwear in the game against Luxembourg.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

Turkey

Gala go for Souness

GALATASARAY have a new coach – Graeme Souness. The former Liverpool boss has signed a one-year contract reportedly worth £500,000.

Souness was in Istanbul to watch his new team beat Zeytinburnu. Gala recovered from 3-0 down to beat their Istanbul rivals 7-3. Saffet scored three, Hakan two and Kubilay and Tugay one each.

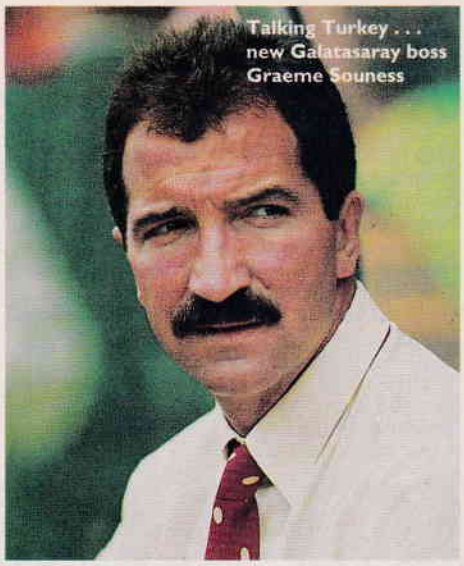
Souness will do well to hang on to striker Suker Hakan. Turkey's top striker is said to be thinking over a move to Torino in Italy. Torino's president recently travelled to Istanbul in a bid to secure Hakan's transfer. Torino offered Hakan DM1million for a one-year contract and Galatasaray a DM4.5million transfer fee. Hakan thinks that he is worth more than that. "I must wait for Turkey to qualify for Euro '96 so that I can ask for a lot more than that. Gala are in a hurry because with my transfer fee they want to buy Gullit," he claimed. However, any plans were put on hold after Hakan suffered an injury that will keep him out of action for some weeks.

The Black Hawks of Istanbul, Besiktas, won the League title for the ninth time with two weeks of the season to go when they defeated Gaziantepspor 2-0 at home. With goalless draws against Fenerbahce and Ankaragucu, Besiktas completed the League as champions three points ahead of Cup-winners Trabzonspor on 76 points. Third-placed Galatasaray and Fenerbahce (fourth) go into the UEFA Cup. Genclerbirligi of Ankara (fifth) and Bursaspor from Bursa (sixth) will compete in the Intertoto Cup.

Istanbulspor and Karsiyaka of Izmir have been promoted to the First Division. The third team will be decided by the play-offs. Zeytinburnu, Petrolofis and Adanademirspor have gone the other way.

The national side have their sights set firmly on England after victories over Sweden and Switzerland in the European Championship qualifying games. Turkey now sit on top of Group 5.

The man behind the success is 42-year-old manager Fatih Terim. The physical approach introduced by Terim is far more suited to the players than the short passing game of his predecessor, Sepp Piontek. Terim took charge of Turkey 18 months ago following his success with the Olympic Under-21 team at the Mediterranean games in France.


Talking Turkey . . . new Galatasaray boss Graeme Souness

Terim has promoted many of the future stars from his Under-21 team to the senior side, including Hakan, now capped 20 times with 10 goals. Midfielder Sergen of Besiktas, 23 years old with 5 caps, scored the winning goal against Sweden in Istanbul. Hakan scored the winning goal against Swtizerland.

Terim also had the courage to drop ageing stars from the national squad and replace them with young talent such as defenders Alpay, of Besiktas, and Emre, from Fenerbahce, as well as midfielder Tolunay from Trabzonspor. His team also depends on players with quality and experience. Midfield maestro is 32-year-old Oguz from Fenerbahce.

Terim is confident of Turkey's chances for Euro '96. He says: "Our group is now more complicated because Sweden lost to Hungary. But we suffered a great loss with the injury of our goalkeeper Engin Ipekoglu [He broke a leg during a league match.] But we have some other good ones in hand. Our players have the confidence to reach England. Our next aim is to qualify for the World Cup."

HASAN CEMALI

Israel

Thrills to the finish

THE NATIONAL League reached a gripping climax on the final day of the 30-match campaign.

League leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv secured the title with a 1-0 win over third-placed Hapoel Beersheba. The title-clinching goal came in the 45th minute from the head of Alon Brumer, Israel's Young Player of the Year.

The joy of the Tel Aviv fans was muted by news that the club had failed to extend the contract of coach Avraham Grant. After four successful years at Maccabi Tel Aviv, in which they won two League titles and one State Cup, Grant is set to move to Hapoel Haifa.

Beit She'an managed a 3-2 surprise victory over Maccabi Haifa, to gain a further lease of life in Israel's top flight. The result sent Ironi Ashdod back to the Second Division after just two years. Maccabi Herzliya got the better of Maccabi Netanya in an explosive match between the League's bottom two sides which saw four players dismissed. Herzliya's 1-0 away victory forced Netanya down after more than 30 years in the National League.

In the Second Division Hapoel Kfar Sava won promotion along with champions Maccabi Jaffa.

Maccabi Haifa will represent Israel in the Cup-winners Cup. They beat Hapoel Haifa 2-0 in the Cup Final. Hapoel Tel Aviv will be Israel's representatives in the UEFA Cup, along with Hapoel Beersheba.

● THE PENULTIMATE week of the season brought a visit from World Cup holders Brazil. The young Brazilians won the friendly 2-1, but the Israelis proved tougher opponents than expected. Despite flashes of brilliance from Renaldo, Rivaldo and Tulio, the visitors were tamed for substantial periods of the game.

DEREK FATTAL

Albania

THE LAST rounds of the League championship have been hit by allegations of corruption and match-fixing.

Tirana had already clinched the League title, the 15th in their history, when they played Partizani. Miloti put Tirana ahead with a goal in the last minute of the first half. Partizani took control after the break and equalised through Kodra. Midfielder Simaku secured a 2-1 win for Partizani with a spectacular volley 20 minutes from time. At this point Tirana striker Kola walked off the pitch in protest at what he saw as a fixed result.

Kastrioti of Kruja have secured the Second Division title and an immediate return to the top flight.

GEZIM NUSHI

Cyprus

ANORTHOSIS, a displaced team from Famagusta, have won the League for the first time since 1963.

The title was a two-horse race between Anorthosis and Omonia, who also play in the UEFA Cup next season. Salamina, another displaced team, from Famagusta, will play in the Intertoto. Apollon and Apoel meet in the Cup Final.

LAKIS AVRAAMIDES

Finland

FINNPA made an odd publicity stunt before a recent match against Kuusysi Lahti.

After failing to score in their first three outings, FinnPa promised to pay back their supporters some of the admission fee should there be a fourth goalless match . . . and they won 5-0.

Many experts are tipping FC Jazz for the title this season. Their Brazilian trio, Rodrigo, Luiz Antonio and Piracaia, have been playing better than ever and starred as HJK were beaten 2-1 in Helsinki.

Champions TPV finally got Brazilian ace Dionisio back, but only after local businessmen forked out the transfer fee demanded by AC Bangu.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Gibraltar

MANCHESTER UNITED may have lost the English FA Premiership but they won the League in 'The Rock'

Combined Services face Gibratar United in a promotion play-off.

MANUEL MENA

Liechtenstein

THE NATIONAL side picked up their first points of the Euro '96 campaign with a 0-0 home draw with the Republic of Ireland.

Goalkeeper Martin Heeb kept the Irish at bay with a series of inspirational saves.

Luxembourg

THERE'S just no stopping the national side. After their 1-0 win over Malta earlier this year, they went one better with a 1-0 home win over the Czech Republic.

Jeunesse Esch snatched their 23rd League title on the last day of the season with a win over already relegated Wormldange.

Jean-Pierre Barboni's men ran out 2-0 winners and took the title on goal difference from long-time leaders Grevenmacher. Jeunesse have a great chance of completing the double when they play Grevenmacher in the Cup Final.

TIM BRICE

Hungary

Fradi take title

FERENCVAROS could afford a surprise 4-1 home defeat to lowly Gyor, in what became known as the 'match of own goals', and still take a three-point lead in the title race.

That lead was to prove decisive as Fradi took the title ahead of long-time leaders UTE, who suffered a mid-term crisis despite the signing of international defender Florian Urban, back from Mechelen in Belgium. UTE had ended the autumn season as one-point leaders over the green-and-whites.

After losing 3-1 to Ferencvaros at home before 22,000, UTE lost away to bottom team Parmalat, and then managed only a 2-1 win in tiny Akaszto against Stadler.

There were surprises elsewhere in the 20th round as the BVSC-Dreher dam broke in a 6-0 defeat at mid-table Zalegerszeg. In Budapest, Gyor were embarrassing Fradi, whose defender Hrutka (two) and forward Paling (one) were debited with own goals in the 4-1 defeat.

Debrecen, sixth at the half-season break, had moved into third position, behind Ferencvaros and UTE but ahead of Kispest and Bekescsaba.

Vasas and Parmalat remain in the two automatic relegation places. Gyor, facing the loss of three points at the end of the season for playing one player twice in one day, are making a strong effort to break away from the two play-off positions, taking 12 points out of 18 in the spring season since the departure of Jozsef Verebes.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Croatia

UEFA's big match ban

UEFA has announced that it will not sanction any major matches in Croatia following an escalation of hostilities.

The decision means the national team, who are well placed to reach the Euro '96 finals in England, will now almost certainly have to play their remaining home games in a neutral country.

"Just two days after a women's European championship match was played in Zagreb a missile exploded there and it is too dangerous for international football," said UEFA's Gerhard Aigner. "The matches scheduled to be played in Croatia in the Intertoto Cup will now have to be played elsewhere."

Hadjuk Split secured the League and Cup double, and with it a return to the Champions League. A remarkable late run, including a 3-0 win over rivals Osijek, took them back to the top of the table.

The two top scorers in the Croatian championship are off to Belgium. Robert Spehar of Osijek, scorer of 21 goals in 23 games, has signed a three-year contract with Club Brugge, while Albanian Ylli Shehu, with 20 goals in 21 games for Sibenik, has signed a two-year contract with Cercle Bruges.

Young Hajduk Split striker Milan Rapaic is wanted by Fenerbahce of Turkey and Udinese of Italy, while Hajduk have taken their search for reinforcements to Africa. Technical director Ivan Buljan recently visited Monrovia, and brought back Liberia's national team goalkeeper, 18-year-old Anthony Gata Tokpah. He is exepected to sign a five-year contract

National team coach Miroslav Blazevic has severed relations with FC Croatia, where he was owner, president and coach. He made way for new team director Velimir Zajec, formerly with Panathinaikos of Greece.

ZDRAVKO REIC

Yugoslavia

Red Star ready for Europe

FOOTBALL in Yugoslavia is slowly waking up from the nightmare of civil war.

Red Star are already celebrating gaining entry to next season's European Champions Cup. Partizan Belgrade seem likely to qualify for the UEFA Cup, while Vojvodina Novi Sad – the third-placed team in Division A – and Buducnost Podgorica – on top in Division B – are set to play off to decide the second UEFA Cup berth. The loser will take part in the Intertoto Cup, along with Becej.

Modest Obilic, from Belgrade, will be Yugoslavia's representatives in the European Cup-winners Cup, despite their 4-0 aggregate final defeat by Red Star.

The national side are currently being coached by Slobodan Santrac. Previously in charge of the national youth team, 49-year-old Santrac is widely expected to be relieved of his caretaker-manager duties and appointed chief coach on a permanent basis.

A decision is expected in July. So there is still time for a few more contenders – Velibor Vasovic, Dragoslav Stepanovic, Dusan Bajevic, Dragoslav Sekularac – to place their names on the application list.

The choice could prove significant as a battle for influence within the FA seems to be hotting up. YFA president Miljan Miljanic is 65 this year and his once unqestioned power seems set to be challenged by members of a new political and media establishment.

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC

Bulgaria

Penev heads for Berlin showdown

AFTER the forthcoming 'match of revenge' against Germany in Sofia, when Bulgaria came from 2-0 down to win 3-2, Dimitar Penev's team must wait until September to travel to Tirana for the first of two ties within a month against Albania.

By then Penev will want to have clinched qualification for England – the last two games Bulgaria have to play are both away, in Tbilisi and Berlin.

His greatest problem may well be unsettled stars not knowing where they will be performing next season. Hristo Stoichkov looks certain to part company with Barcelona and Yordan Lechkov's Hamburg may be thinking again after a very disappointing season in the Bundesliga and the recent dismissal of coach Benno Mohlmann. Emil Kostadinov, however, appears settled in Munich with Bayern.

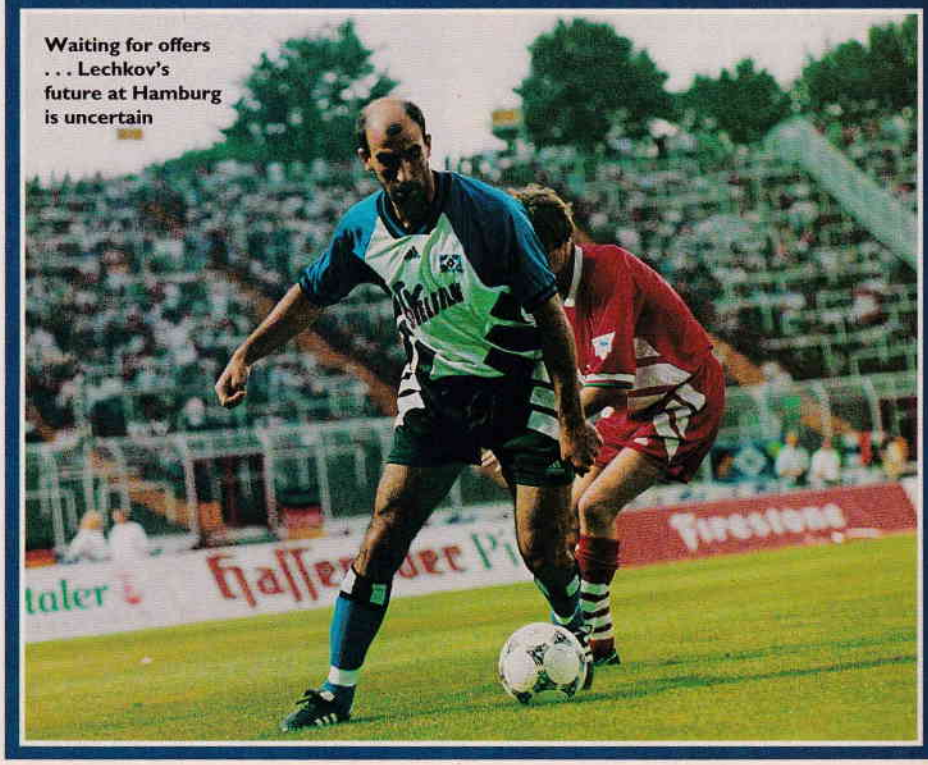
In the League Levski have resumed the leadership from Lok and must be favourites to retain the title, despite rumours of a possible takeover of the club. Coach Georgi Vasilev is unlikely to stay but should sign off with another title.

Only third-placed Botev Plovdiv are preventing a Sofia whitewash of the top four spots. Slavia, currently fourth, lead CSKA and have the leading goalscorer in 21-goal Vesko Shalamanov. Last season he only managed three!

The Cup Final may provide some consolation for Lok. In the semi-final first leg Neftochimik were accounted for 1-0 in Bourgas and have little hope of turning the tables in Sofia. The other finalist is almost certain to be Botev Plovdiv after their 5-2 victory over Montana in the first encounter.

● NATIONAL team players will share $1million if they qualify for the European Championship finals.

BOB VAUGHAN



Waiting for offers . . . Lechkov's future at Hamburg is uncertain

Czech Republic

Skuhravy leads the charge

THE 3-1 win over the Netherlands will long be remembered as a significant day in the history of Czech football.

The victory came after Dusan Uhrin's team had gone a goal behind after just seven minutes, Jonk putting the Dutch ahead. However second-half goals by Skuhravy, Nemecek and Berger in the space of 13 minutes mean the Czechs had taken four points from the two ties with Holland to put them back in business in Group 4 of the European qualifiers.

However, a disastrous 1-0 defeat in Luxembourg now means that the two late-summer battles with the table-topping Norwegians will probably decide the places in England next year. Uhrin had his best possible squad available in the Sparta stadium for the Dutch match, including the returning Skuhravy, who celebrated successful peace talks with his manager by equalising four minutes after half-time.

Sparta clinched the championship after a season-long battle with Slavia. Bottom club Benesov were no trouble when Slavia visited. The leaders scored five times through Berger (twice), Suchoparek, Lerch and the veteran Knoflicek. Benesov, already on their way to Division Two, got a 73rd minute consolation through Petr Novotny.

At the same time Sparta were taking three points from a 3-1 win over Brno, but in front of only 4,875 spectators. Across town Bohemians spluttered to a 1-1 draw with Hradec Kralove while, in Ostrava, Viktoria Zizkov regained a little of the lost ground with a 3-1 win. The Cup-winners are in fourth place, with the Intertoto Cup as their only possible route into Europe.

With one relegation place decided (Benesov) and Bohemians' fate almost sealed, the rest of the First Division will be looking forward to the promotion of Moravians Uherske Hradiste and the crowds, often better than Sparta's, which they are drawing home and away.

Opava will probably join them now that they seem to have shaken off the challenge of third-placed Lerk Brno.

BOB VAUGHAN

High-flyer . . . Genoa striker Tomas Skuhravy

Romania

Steaua march on

STEAUA are still in charge at the top of the League and although an improving Craiova could catch the former European champions, it looks increasingly like another title for the army men.

Only two defeats in Steaua's first 28 matches means 'U' have an almost impossible task, especially after a 2-2 draw with Petrolul in Ploesti. The previous week's 1-0 win over Dinamo put an end to the latter's already small title chances and probably any hope of European football for them next term, Intertoto Cup excepting. FC National's chances have also gone after a very good first half to the season.

However, it is at the bottom where competition is at its most intense. UT Arad are some way off safety and the favourites to be relegated. Sportul are almost as deeply in trouble and FC Baiai Mare are little better off.

'General' Iordanescu's national team currently lead Group 1 and by the end of the summer should be able to face the trip to Poland with confidence. A draw will probably do as full points were taken in Trabzon, Turkey, against Azerbaijan, thanks to Raducioiu's hat-trick.

However tricky games in Slovakia and against France in Bucharest await. Israel are a dark horse and even Slovakia, despite a heavy setback in Nantes, are not totally out of contention.

BOB VAUGHAN

Hat-trick hero . . . Raducioiu hit three against Azerbaijan

Macedonia

NATIONAL TEAM coach Andon Doncevski has little to smile about.

Macedonia drew 2-2 in Armenia and their chances of reaching the Euro '96 finals are now slim.

Critics say 64-year-old Doncevski is obsessed with fielding older, foreign-based players. The Macedonian squad has an average age of nearly 29, with Kanatlarovski the oldest at 34, Zarko Serafimovski was the only player from champions Vardar Skopje, while another, Zoran Jovanovski, was on the bench.

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC

Poland

NATIONAL TEAM coach Henryk Apostel believes Poland can still qualify for the 1996 European Championships.

"After victory over Israel we have to beat Slovakia in June. The game against France in Paris in August will be our 'to be or not to be'." After the 2-1 defeat to Romania in April Poland bounced back, beating Israel 4-3.

Legia Warsaw, with no players in the national team, top the table with 45 points and are likely to do the double again this year. They face GKS Katowice in the Cup Final in Warsaw.

With four rounds to go Legia are three points ahead of Widzew Lodz, despite an unexpected 1-0 defeat to Lech Poznan, which ended a record run of 48 successive home unbeaten League games.

There are no clear candidates, other than already relegated Warta Poznan. As many as 11 teams are still in danger of the drop.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

Slovakia

EUROPEAN Championship qualification chances all but died with the national team's 4-0 defeat in Nantes.

'Jo' Venglos was furious at a full-strength team who seemed to give up the ghost after the luckless Kristofik had put through his own goal.

Victory is now needed in Poland to maintain interest, as will full points from the tie with Azerbaijan. Three home games in Slovakia in the autumn might witness a miracle, but it is odds on the first competitive campaign being a damp squib.

In the League Slovan are home and dry but FC Kosice and the team playing the best football, Spartak Trnava, will be fighting for a Intertoto spot. Slovan are unlikely to be a strong force in Europe next season. Financial troubles on a scale not faced before by an Slovak club mean the likely sale of their best players to, it is rumoured, Rapid Vienna and VfB Stuttgart among others.

BOB VAUGHAN

Ukraine

SHAKHTYOR DONETSK beat Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 extra time draw in the Cup Final.

Dnipro were playing under new coach, the German, Bernd Stange. He has taken over from Vladimir Onyschenko, who resigned after just three months in the job.

Kiev Dynamo continue to keep their noses in front in the championship. Striker Victor Leonenko recently became the first player to score 50 goals in the Ukraine Premier League.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

Dalglish back at the top

AFTER a gap of 81 years, Blackburn Rovers are the champions once again . . . but how they were made to sweat for it.

On the last day of the season, Rovers needed to win at Anfield – Kenny Dalglish's old hunting ground – to be absolutely sure of the title, regardless of Manchester United's result at West Ham.

Footballer of the Year Alan Shearer, who else, put Rovers ahead but, following a Liverpool equaliser, Jamie Redknapp crashed home a free-kick in the last minute to put Blackburn's championship aspirations in momentary doubt.

However, Redknapp's father, Harry, was overseeing a rearguard action at Upton Park, which restricted the defending champions to a 1-1 draw . . . giving Rovers the title by a single point.

Adding to the curiosity, Hughes opened the scoring at Upton Park – Michael of West Ham rather than Mark of United – that is; while Michael Thomas, who denied Dalglish's Liverpool the championship in 1989 while with Arsenal, played for them against Rovers in that final, tense match.

Dalglish thus becomes only the third manager to win the title with different clubs after Herbert Chapman (Huddersfield Town & Arsenal), and Brian Clough (Derby County & Nottingham Forest). In a season when so many Premiership clubs changed their manager, you wonder if all these changes actually achieve anything. Seemingly not, for of the nine clubs who made a change during the domestic season, three were relegated while another four finished in the bottom half of the table.

One of those four clubs are Everton, who can be excused on the grounds that new boss Joe Royle did keep them in the Premiership and win the FA Cup. Everton were bottom of the table in November when Royle took over from Mike Walker, but finished four points clear of the relegation zone, justification enough for the board's decision to make a change.

New Order . . . Blackburn manager Dalglish and skipper Tim Sherwood

Then, of course, there is the small matter of Everton's fifth FA Cup victory, courtesy of a 1-0 win against Manchester United. The Everton hero was Paul Rideout, a player rejuvenated thanks to Royle's guidance and encouragement. For Rideout, it was a triumphant return to the stage where, as an England Schoolboy, his career was launched over a decade ago.

United they fall . . . Rideout scores and Everton celebrate

For Manchester United, there were only ifs and Butts to console them. If only one of Andy Cole's efforts had gone in against West Ham they would have been champions . . . but for Neville Southall they would have won the Cup.

It has been a difficult season for United, wracked by court cases, suspensions, the disappointing exit from Europe and, now, trophy-less at the end of it. They do, however, have the consolation of a place in the UEFA Cup next season, along with Nottingham Forest, Liverpool (League Cup-winners) and Leeds.

Tottenham, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday have agreed, reluctantly, to take part in the InterToto Cup during the summer, but it will be a strange experience for visiting sides. Only Wednesday can play their matches on their home ground, while Wimbledon are threatening to play their fixtures at Arsenal's London Colney training ground!

Crystal Palace were relegated, along with Ipswich, Leicester and Norwich, and they too sacked their manager, Alan Smith, at the season's end, as did Manchester City (Brian Horton) and Sheffield Wednesday (Trevor Francis).

Coming into the Premiership are Second Division champions Middlesbrough, led by Bryan Robson and with a new ground ready for next season; and Bolton, who won a dramatic play-off final with Reading at Wembley. Bolton, two down after 20 minutes, fought back after goalkeeper Keith Branagan saved a penalty to win 4-3 in extra-time.

Spot-kick saviour . . . Bolton's Branagan saves a penalty in the play-off triumph

As soon as the playing stopped, the dealing started. The first eyebrow-raiser was Chelsea's swoop for Ruud Gullit. The Dutchman, approaching 33, arrives on a free transfer from Sampdoria and has been promised the sweeper's role at Stamford Bridge plus a salary of £30,000 a week. Jurgen Klinsmann, however, has been lured home to Germany by a too-good-to-refuse offer from Bayern Munich.

But it was Newcastle who really made waves, spending £10million in a matter of days. Manager Kevin Keegan signed Warren Barton from Wimbledon for a fee of £4million, making him Britain's most expensive defender. Then he met Queens Park Rangers' £6million asking price for striker Les Ferdinand, whom he had coveted for some time, at last finding a convincing replacement for Andy Cole.

In the same week Arsenal, having been frustrated in their efforts to bring Bobby Robson back into English football, found a manager to replace George Graham – another Scot, Bruce Rioch, accepting their offer and leaving Bolton for Highbury.

JOHN KELLY

Wales

Bangor out in front

BANGOR CITY retained the title, having been clear favourites for most of the season.

An emphatic 4-1 win over Conwy United ensured them an unassailable lead over their challengers.

The last contenders to fall were surprise club Afan Lido, who improved steadily through the season under the management of Nigel Rees and finally outran Ton Pentre AFC for the runners-up position on the last day of the season.

A 2-1 win at Fflint Town United, who were later to appoint Steff Rush – brother of Liverpool's Ian – as manager, enabled them to finish ahead of their South Wales neighbours. Ton Pentre qualified for the UEFA Inter-Toto Cup by finishing third ahead of Newtown AFC.

The League Cup went to mid-Wales when Llansantffraid beat highly-fancied Ton Pentre 2-1 at Newtown. The Saints fought back from an early setback with excellent goals from Abercrombie and Curtis.

The fate of the three Euro-qualifiers still hangs in the balance. UEFA already have decreed that none of the three professional clubs playing in England will be able to represent Wales in the Cup-winners Cup after this year.

The last representative from this group of clubs will be Wrexham, who beat Cardiff City 2-1 in a entertaining final at the National Stadium.

Two first-half goals from Gary Bennett and a magnificent performance by goalkeeper Andy Marriott enabled Wrexham to secure a record 23rd victory.

Many Konica club players are attracting interest from professional clubs over the border in England. Newtown, having sold Andy Cooke to Burnley for a Konica League record of £30,000, are close to selling Marc Williams and Gareth Hanmer to Preston.

On the international scene, a fine draw in Germany injected renewed confidence into Mike Smith's squad, only for another disaster to strike.

Smith wants to take Wales into the next World Cup campaign, and a good result in the European Championship qualifier against Georgia in Cardiff would have strengthened his position, but Wales lost by the only goal and had the ever-controversial Vinnie Jones sent off.

Now a face-saving end to the qualifying trail is all that can realistically be hoped for, as well as the blooding of new talent to set the scene for a more successful World Cup challenge.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

Northern Ireland

Cup joy for Linfield

LINFIELD retained the Irish Cup when they deservedly beat outsiders Carrick Rangers 3-1 in the final at the Oval before a crowd of 8,000.

Yet again it was striker Garry Haylock who struck the vital blows for the Blues with two goals to bring his season's tally to 39. Linfield's other goal was scored by substitute Ian McCoosh. Carrick fought bravely and were unlucky to hit the woodwork at a crucial stage of the match, but a single goal from full-back Anthony Gilmore was not enough.

That Cup win – Linfield's 35th in their history – compensated to some degree for a poor League campaign for manager Trevor Anderson's team. Linfield, champions in 1994, could finish only in eighth place – their worst performance since 1952.

The final piece in the new Premier League jigsaw was in place after the very last day of the Championship, in what turned out to be something of a farce.

A decision was made two years ago stipulating that League placings over two seasons would determine the eight teams to qualify. Bangor, who finished 5th in 1994, went into the last round of fixtures knowing that even if they lost to neighbours Ards, they would still qualify from 11th place if Coleraine (10th last year) failed to beat Ballymena and Cliftonville and Glentoran won a point each in their games against Crusaders and Linfield respectively.

Everything duly fell into place; Bangor lost 2-0 but Dame Fortune smiled as Coleraine, despite laying siege to the Ballymena goal, had to settle for a scoreless draw and the other two games ended in 2-2 draws.

Thus Ards moved above Coleraine in the table and pushed them into 7th place, giving Bangor the last spot in the higher division.

The eight clubs who will make up the new League are: Ards, Bangor, Cliftonville, Crusaders, Glenavon, Glentoran, Linfield and Portadown.

Leading scorers in League games were Glenn Ferguson (27 goals) of Glenavon and Glenn Hunter (18) of champions Crusaders. The Champions received the two major individual awards of the season, with manager Roy Walker being named Manager of the Year and Scottish goalkeeper Kevin McKeown winning the Player of the Year award.

Ards defeated Cliftonville in a disappointing League Cup Final in which neither team could manage a goal in 120 minutes of open play. Ards won a penalty shoot-out 2-0.

The first managerial casualty of the close season came with the dismissal of Bangor's Roddy Collins, with the seaside club deciding that a more experienced man will be needed in the new top flight.

ROY KITSON

Scotland

Dundee sings the blues

TEARS flowed freely in Dundee on the last day of the season, as results confirmed that neither of the clubs from the city of jute, jam and journalism would be competing in the Premier Division when hostilities resume in August.

The 5-0 defeat of Stranraer was not enough to secure promotion from Division One for Dundee, while at Tannadice grown men wept as the heartbroken Dundee United players left the field after a 1-0 defeat by Celtic aware that, for the first time in 25 years, the club would not be competing in the top flight.

A year ago, the Tannadice team, under Ivan Golac's stewardship, won the Scottish Cup for the first time. Twelve months on, Golac has gone and United have been relegated. It's no wonder chairman Jim McLean had tears in his eyes after the Celtic game but, as he explained: "These are tears of anger. Anger at the way this has been allowed to happen."

McLean, along with new manager Billy Kirkwood, must now look to build a new team in the First Division. It will not be easy. As well as having to face neighbours Dundee on four occasions, United will be up against perennial challengers Airdrie and St Johnstone, plus Dunfirmline, who were defeated in the end of season play-offs.

Any success is likely to be based on the number of players they can hold on to. Some form of off-loading is inevitable, while certain players may be unwilling to drop down a division and may seek to further their careers elsewhere.

Craig Brewster, goalscoring hero from the 1994 Scottish Cup Final, has already announced his intention to move on, while the Trinidad and Tobago international Jerren Nixon, once valued by Golac at £1.5million, has been placed on the transfer list.

Jimmy Nicholl's Raith Rovers, meanwhile, have achieved a remarkable and unprecedented 'double'. Having won the Coca-Cola League Cup in November, Rovers finished strongly to clinch the First Division championship, ensuring not only Premier Division football but also an unlikely taste of European action next season.

ALAN FAIRLEY

CELTIC SWING

Hoopd dream . . . Celtic ended a six-year wait for silverware when Dutch signing Pierre Van Hooijdonk (falling) scored the only goal in their 1-0 Cup Final win against Airdrie at Hampden Park.

Nayim magnifico!

Of all the players to wreck Arsenal's dream of being the first team to retain the Cup-winners Cup, it had to be former Tottenham man Nayim. Keir Radnedge reports on a night of ups and downs in Paris

THE 1995 final of the Cup-winners Cup posed more questions than it answered.

For example, were Zaragoza just a flash in the pan – as so many previous winners of the event? Was coach Victor Fernandez right to worry, out loud, as he did afterwards, that his team had nowhere further to go after three years' hard work? How long could they hold on to Juan Esnaider?

Would Arsenal capitalise on the opportunity offered by defeat to sever all links with the 'boring' past? Would they appoint a new manager with the technical vision and power of personality to recast the club's football and their footballers?

A man who could bring personal self-discipline back into vogue at a club where the entire concept appeared to have been thrown out of the window – and that was several weeks before Ray Parlour drank himself into the stupor and assaulted a Hong Kong taxi driver.

On the face of it, new boss Bruce Rioch will need time to kick-start a revival. Arsenal's big-spending domestic rivals are already plucking all the ripest plums from the transfer market.

Yet Arsenal needed to rebuild more than most, judging by the way Zaragoza exposed their fading powers.

Three weeks earlier goalkeeper David Seaman had been carried off the pitch on his team-mates' shoulders after almost single-handedly taking Arsenal to the final. His three brilliant penalty shoot-out saves against Sampdoria had offered the London club the chance to become the first team to retain the cup.

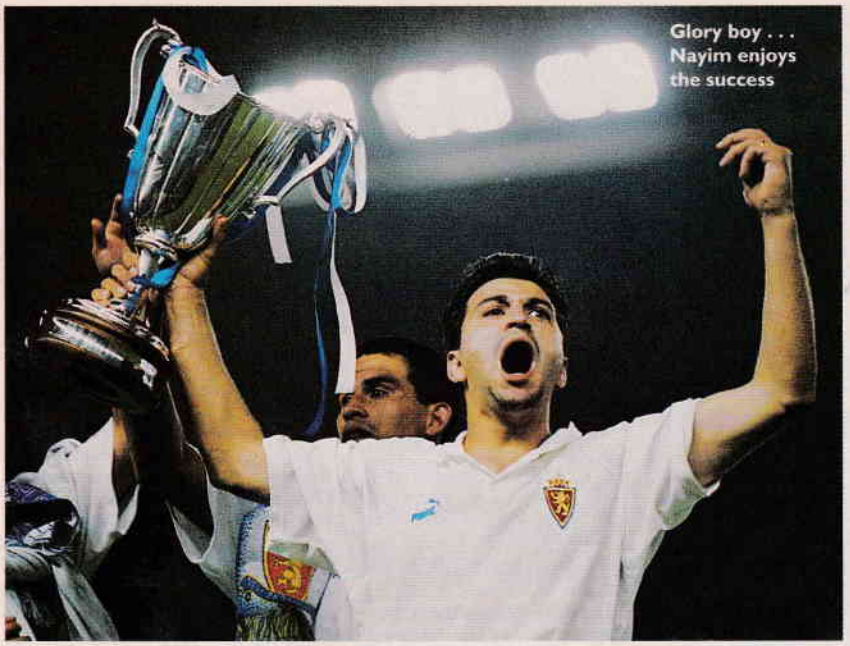
After almost 120 minutes of a mixed-quality final under the floodlighting of the Parc des Princes the England goalkeeper was probably contemplating another shoot-out challenge. Since Zaragoza had been forced to play their semi-retired veteran reserve, Andoni Cedrun, in goal after Juanmi failed a fitness test on an injured right knee, everything pointed towards an Arsenal victory.

The ball bobbled around in midfield in the dying seconds with Seaman a spectator towards the edge of his penalty box. He should have known better. Twice, earlier in the match, Zaragoza players had attempted to chip him from long range, only for the 6ft 4in keeper easily to pluck the ball out of the air.

But from the moment midfielder Nayim launched an astonishing last-gasp effort it was all over for Seaman and Arsenal. Nayim's effort was too powerful to be either chip or lob. It was deliberate, however. The ball flew high, Seaman probably lost it in the floodlights around the stadium roof.

Then down it came, dropping inches beneath the crossbar a

"I was standing in the perfect place to act as sweeper. Obvio



Glory boy . . . Nayim enjoys the success

an impossible angle for the goalkeeper to save. Suddenly Seaman was a crumpled, embarrassed heap, tangled in his goal netting, while Nayim disappeared under a mass of delirious team-mates. Arsenal barely had time to kick off before the final whistle sounded to spark more delirium, this time in the Spanish fans, who celebrated with wild abandon the club's first European success since 1964.

"Was it a lucky goal or a brilliant goal – who knows?" said Nayim afterwards. But there was never any doubt he meant it. He said: "I saw Seaman coming out and decided to shoot."

Reinhardt Libuda of Borussia Dortmund said much the same when he scored an equally astonishing goal in 1966 in exactly these circumstances – winning the Cup-winners Cup Final late into extra time against Liverpool.

Seaman said: "As a goalkeeper I was in the right position. I was standing in the perfect place to act as sweeper. Obviously, it wasn't so perfect."

Nayim was just the man to wreck Arsenal's dream. The 28-year-old Moroccan-born Spaniard had spent five years in England with Arsenal's great rivals Tottenham. He was in and out of the team but, back in Spain over the last two seasons he has blossomed, and he competed with equal energy and superior skill against Arsenal's powerful midfield.

There was little indication of the drama to come in an uninspiring first half. Arsenal's Welsh striker John Hartson was booked after just two minutes for a late challenge on Nayim as both sides struggled to settle.

Zaragoza looked the more dangerous side, especially on the counter. Skipper Miguel Pardeza was a constant threat on the edge of the box while Esnaider was always looking to escape.

The young Argentinian striker did just that a minute before the break after Lee Dixon had lost possesion outside the Spanish box. Arsenal's back four was left exposed and Esnaider burst through, only to drag his shot inches wide across the face of Seaman's goal.

Arsenal were forced to reorganise for the second half as Martin Keown and Nigel Winterburn, both injured, were replaced by David Hillier and Steve Morrow. Zaragoza sought to take advantage, stepping up the pace and quality of their interpassing and Seaman blocked well from first Pardeza then, in the 57th minute, Higuera.

Arsenal went close when a Paul Merson header was headed off the line by the retreating Belsue but Zaragoza's pressure paid off in the 67th minute. There seemed little danger when Esnaider picked up a loose ball 25 yards out but he struck a vicious swerving left-foot volley which left Seaman stranded. It was the 22-year-old's eighth goal in the tournament.

Seven minutes later Arsenal pulled level with their best move of the match. The hard-working Stefan Schwarz won the ball in midfield and fed Ray Parlour who, on the right, had been the Gunners' most creative attacker. Parlour squared for Merson to flick on so Hartson could slot home his first European goal.

Dixon survived a penalty appeal after a rash challenge on Pardeza – a decision which infuriated the Zaragoza fans massed behind Seaman's goal – before the match went into extra time.

Here Arsenal again had Seaman to thank for keeping them on terms. In the 99th minute he produced a magnificent save to turn a Javier Aguado header on to a post and he then calmly collected the rebound as it bounced against his body on rebounding from the woodwork.

Unfortunately for Arsenal – and caretaker manager Stewart Houston – not even Seaman's luck could hold for ever.

ZARAGOZA 2 ARSENAL 1

Esnaider 67 ***Hartson 75***
Nayim 120

May 10 – Paris, Parc des Princes
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 42,424.
Ref: Ceccarini (It).
Arsenal: Seaman – Dixon, Schwarz, Winterburn (Morrow 47), Adams, Linighan, Keown (Hillier 46), Parlour, Merson, Wright, Hartson
Zaragoza: Cedrun – Belsue, Solana, Caceres, Aragon, Nayim, Aguado, Poyet, Esnaider, Higuera (Garcia Sanjuan 66; Geli 114), Pardeza.

THE MATCH – MINUTE BY MINUTE

0.....Arsenal kick off.
1.....Hartson is booked for a foul on Nayim.
20 .....Higuera is booked for a foul on Dixon.
30 .....Wright slices through the Zaragoza defence on the Arsenal left but his short cross is hooked out for a corner by Solana – who is not so far off an own goal.
32 .....Merson is booked for a trip.
30 .....Pardeza has a 'goal' correctly disallowed for offside after fine work between Esnaider and Poyet.
45 .....Keown and Parlour clash heads. Keown is carried off.
Half-time: Zaragoza 0, Arsenal 0.
50 .....Seaman to the rescue for Arsenal with a stand-up save at his left-hand post to an angled drive from Pardeza.
56 .....Arsenal ride the pressure. Pardeza chips over the defence but Esnaider arrives a split-second too late.
57 .....Belsue and Pardeza present Higuera with a chance, Seaman blocks again and Higuera's header loops over.
59 .....Arsenal, having apparently weathered the storm, hit back. Parlour gets in again on the right and Merson's header is headed deftly off the goal-line by Belsue.
64 .....An Aragon drive is tipped over the bar by Seaman but the referee awards a goal kick.
65 .....Belsue is booked for a trip on Wright.
66 .....Zaragoza's first change as Higuera is substituted by Sanjuan.
67 .....Zaragoza go ahead. An apparently innocuous mid-field situation is converted into explosive action as **ESNAIDER** controls the ball, turns and shoots all in one movement – and all with his left foot. Seaman doesn't see the hook shot fly past him. Zaragoza 1, Arsenal 0.
75 .....Arsenal equalise. Parlour again infiltrates on the right, Merson flicks the ball square and **HARTSON** slides into the six-yard box to stab the ball home. The stadium announcer credits the goal to Wright, television proves his partner was the scorer. Zaragoza 1, Arsenal 1.
80 .....Pardeza tries a snap shot but it curls safely away, well wide of Seaman's right-hand post.
Full-time: Zaragoza 1 Arsenal 1.
91 .....Arsenal kick off for extra time.
99 .....Seaman to the rescue for Arsenal. Esnaider crosses after a short corner on the left, Aguado heads for goal and Seaman first dives to tip the ball against his left-hand post then dives back to grab the rebound.
Half extra time: Zaragoza 1, Arsenal 1.
114...Zaragoza substitute Garcia Sanjuan with Loreto.
116...Poyet heads wide from a Nayim cross.
120...**NAYIM** scores one of the most incredible goals ever to win a European club final. A goal kick from Cedrun is knocked down in midfield by Arsenal. Nayim lets the ball bounce then, from out on the right touchline near halfway, hits a towering lob which climbs into the glare of the floodlights around the rim of the stadium roof and then down, over the head of the amazed Seaman and under the bar for the winner. Nayim is booked for the extent of his celebrations.
Full-time: Zaragoza 2, Arsenal 1.

WHAT THEY SAID

VICTOR FERNANDEZ (Zaragoza coach): "This victory was the peak of achievement for us. We have worked hard for four and five years together and now we have our reward.

"The question I must now consider is whether we have reached our optimum or whether we can use this as a springboard to go on to more success. Football is like this – there is always something else there for you to try to win.

"I wasn't satisfied with the way we played in the first half. At half-time I told my players that the final pass was missing. I told them we had to move the ball more and quicker. We had been holding on to it too much. The semi-final [against Chelsea] taught us a great deal for the final."

STEWART HOUSTON (Arsenal manager): "Against Sampdoria there was a sting in the tail and we benefited. This time the sting went the other way. Tactically we did everything right. I have no regrets there. In the end it was just a matter of who got the advantage in goals."

s ly, it wasn't so perfect" David Seaman

Back on track

Hosts Uruguay are hoping the Copa America will put them back on the world ma
Eric Weil reports on their efforts and assesses the tournament's 12 contenders

A FEW years ago the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) decided that the continental championships should be held every two years at each of the 10 countries in turn. Otherwise Uruguay would never have been chosen to host this year's event, to be held from July 5-23.

Uruguayan soccer is in the doldrums, both on and off the pitch. Its best players have gone abroad and those left behind dream of following them. There are hardly any spectators, except at games involving big clubs Nacional and Penarol, and most clubs are bankrupt.

For the second year running the start of the championship has had to be delayed because clubs still owe players large sums on previous contracts. On top of that, Uruguay had only one stadium fit for a South American tournament – the Centenario in Montevideo. Inaugurated for the 1930 World Cup with a 100,000 capacity, the stadium holds slightly fewer spectators now.

Yet little Uruguay, with a population of around three million, would not hear of switching venues. They see this tournament as a stepping stone back to the top rung of soccer – which they once occupied as winners of two World Cups (1930 and 1950) and 10 official South American titles. It is also a way of generating some much needed cash for soccer.

Of the four venues to be used, the Centenario stadium has had to be refurbished, two little stadiums in Paysandu and Rivera practically rebuilt and a brand new one constructed in Maldonado. The government pledged the money – some $9.5million – and although there was a slight hitch last year when the government changed, the Uruguayan FA expects to make a profit from ticket sales, advertising and TV revenue.

The problem of hotel accommodation at the two small venues – Paysandu and Rivera – has been overcome in a novel way, but transport may be a problem. There are no railways in Uruguay and no big airports at the above venues, so transport will be by bus over considerable distances.

For the second time there will be 12 countries participating – the United States and Mexico as guests – though still no provision seems to have been made if one of these wins the 'South American' title.

Group A (Uruguay, Venezuela, Mexico, Paraguay) will be played in Montevideo and Maldonado, 125km to the east, where the country's only rich municipality, containing the Punta del Este beach resort with plenty of hotels, has built a new stadium for $12million.

Group B (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) play in Rivera, 500km north of Montevideo, where the stadium now holds 25,000 and the many visitors, and perhaps even the teams, will be able to stay across the tracks in the Brazilian border town of Santa Ana Do Livramento, which is separated from Rivera only by a wide avenue.

Group C (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, United States) play in Paysandu, 360km northeast of Montevideo, where the stadium holds 22,000 and which is just across the River Uruguay from the Argentinian town of Colon and linked by a bridge. So Argentinian fans not finding room in Paysandu will be able to stay on their side of the river.

Again the top two in each group and the two third-placed teams with the best records qualify for the qua finals, to be played in Montevi Paysandu and Rivera between Jul and 18. The semi-finals will held b Montevideo on July 19 and 20, third place play-off at Maldonado July 22, and the Final in Montev the following day.

Argentina are the defending cha ons and have won the tournam most times with 11 victories, follo by Uruguay (10), Brazil (four), Peru Paraguay (two) and Bolivia (one).

Field of dreams . . . Montevideo's Centenario stadium, venue for the 1995 Copa America Final

COPA AMERICA FIXTURES

GROUP A
(in Montevideo and Maldonado)
JUL 5: Uruguay v Venezuela
JUL 6: Mexico v Paraguay
JUL 9: Uruguay v Paraguay
JUL 9: Mexico v Venezuela
JUL 12: Paraguay v Venezuela
JUL 12: Uruguay v Mexico

GROUP B
(in Rivera)
JUL 7: Colombia v Peru
JUL 7: Brazil v Ecuador
JUL 10: Colombia v Ecuador
JUL 10: Brazil v Peru
JUL 13: Peru v Ecuador
JUL 13: Brazil v Colombia

GROUP C
(in Paysandu)
JUL 8: United States v Chile
JUL 8: Argentina v Bolivia
JUL 11: United States v Bolivia
JUL 11: Argentina v Chile
JUL 14: Chile v Bolivia
JUL 14: Argentina v United Sta

QUARTER-FINALS
1) JUL 16: Runner-up Group A Runner-up Group B
(in Montevideo)
2) JUL 16: Winner Group A v 2nd-best 3rd place
(in Montevideo)
3) JUL 17: Winner Group C v Best 3rd place
(in Paysandu)
4) JUL 18: Winner Group B v Runner-up Group C
(in Rivera)

SEMI-FINALS
JUL 19: 1 v 2
JUL 20: 3 v 4
(both in Montevideo)

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF (July 2
(in Maldonaldo)

FINAL (July 23)
(in Montevideo)

Group A

Uruguay, Mexico, Paraguay, Venezuela

URUGUAY

WHEN Uruguay were eliminated from their World Cup qualifying group in September 1993, the national team and coaching staff were disbanded. With no international competition in sight the cash-strapped FA left it at that.

It was not until a year later, in October 1994, after a new national team coach had been named, that Uruguay played another international – a 1-0 win away to Peru with home-based players under new coach Hector Nunez. The standard of domestic soccer is currently so low that Uruguay will probably rely on as many foreign-based players as they can get for the Copa America.

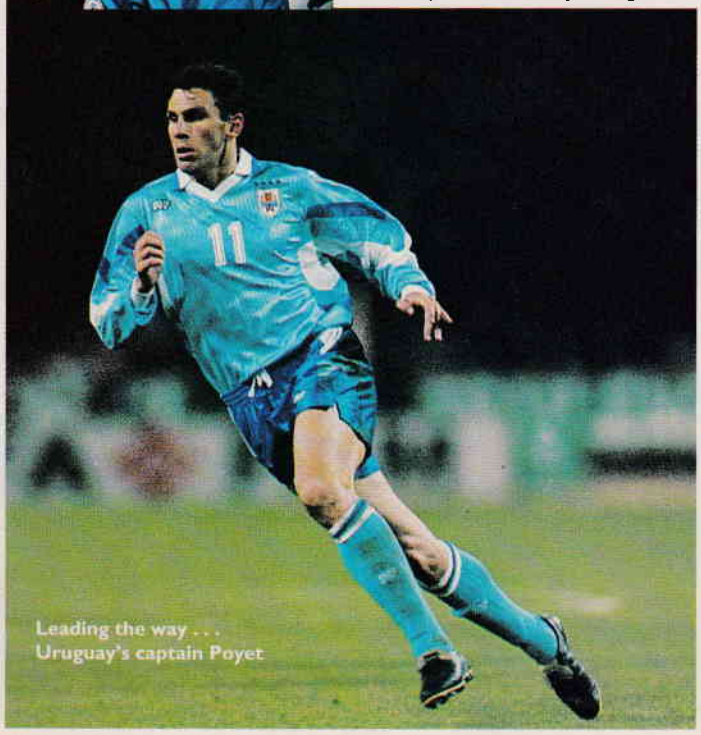
So far this year Uruguay have been making up for last year's lack of activity – they played more internationals than any other South American country, including a four-match tour of which their 0-0 draw with England at Wembley was the high point. With six exiles in the squad, the tour probably gave a good indication of their real potential. In the Copa America they could line up as many as nine foreign-based players.

Hands on . . . Mexico's goalscoring keeper Campos

Old hand . . . Uruguay's Enzo Francescoli

They have two outstanding playmakers in home-based Pablo Bengoechea and Enzo Francescoli of Argentina's River Plate, who also stand out with dead-ball situations; goalscorers in Daniel Fonseca (Roma), Sergio Martinez (Boca Juniors) and Uruguayan League top scorer Dario Silva; and intelligent attacking half Gustavo Poyet, who was captain on their recent tour and plays in Spain with Zaragoza. But the team's rhythm is, on the whole, slow, especially in defence.

Francescoli, defender Jose Herrera (Cagliari), and Ruben Sosa (Inter Milan) may be the only three left over from the last Copa America two years ago.



Leading the way . . . Uruguay's captain Poyet

MEXICO

MEXICO will be the only team still under the same coach as 1993 Copa America and the 1994 World Cup – Miguel Mejia Baron, a dentist by profession.

They will probably rely on a lot of the same players, who are still doing well in the Mexican League. However veteran striker Hugo Sanchez, now 37, will not be among them. He has been omitted after a dispute with the coach. But dangerous Carlos Hermosillo, leading scorer in the Mexican League for the last two seasons, will. So will goalkeeper Jorge Campos, who likes scoring too.

Mexico were beaten 2-1 by Argentina in a close final in Ecuador last time. In the World Cup they won their first round group and went out to Bulgaria on penalties in the second round.

This year they lost, also on penalties after a 1-1 draw, to eventual winners Denmark, who beat Argentina 2-0 in the final of the Intercontinental Cup.

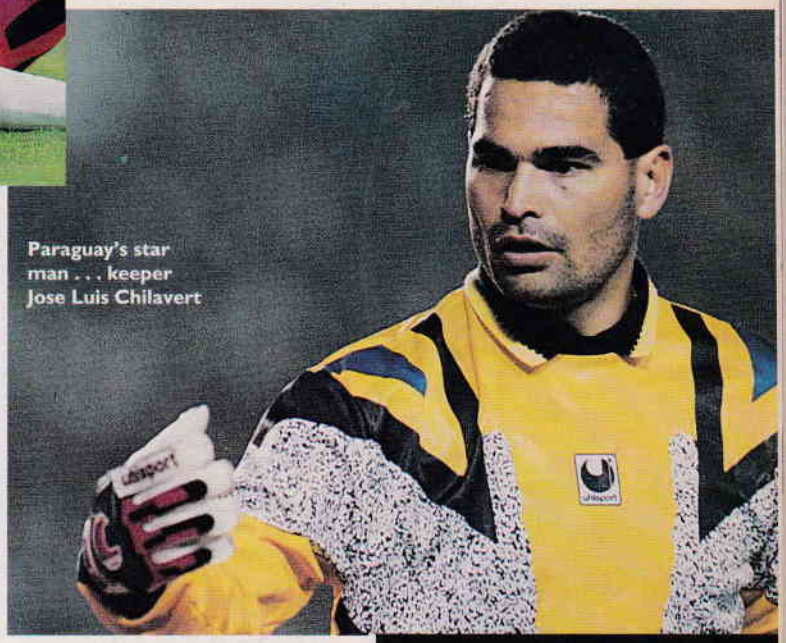
Then, in the Pan-American Games in Argentina, they almost beat the heavily favoured and experienced home team in the final, but again lost on penalties. Although a competition for Under-23 teams (with three older players allowed) many players from the Pan-American Games, from both sides, will be in Uruguay.

After going so close to several trophies, surely it's Mexico's turn for a tournament triumph. Their 'achique' technique – first introduced by former coach, Argentinian Cesar Menotti – which narrows spaces for the opposition, caused problems for Argentina, and other favourites, such as Brazil, may find it difficult too.

PARAQUAY

PARAGUAY engaged Hungarian coach Ladislav Kubala – who had been working as technical adviser to the Spanish FA – with the purpose of preparing a team for the next World Cup. In mid-April he picked a squad of 24 home-based players to start training. Now the release of eight players from Argentinian clubs has been requested, none of whom is a top performer, with the exception of goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert of Velez Sarsfield, but he can't do it all.

But Kubala has his eyes on the World Cup and will use the Copa America as a serious trial, although they may not be able to aspire to more than third place in this group. Nine of the players called up were in the 1993 squad.



Paraguay's star man . . . keeper Jose Luis Chilavert

Top man in Venezuela . . . Stalin Rivas

VENEZUELA

VENEZUALA are harder to beat these days, but unlikely to finish anywhere but bottom. Their one world-class player is Stalin Rivas who has played in Belgium, for Standard Liege, but is now back home.

1995 Copa America

Group B
Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

BRAZIL

ALTHOUGH Brazil have only won the continental title four times in 30 official and six unofficial championships, they are always among the favourites. Coach Mario Zagalo could conceivably call on the entire World Cup winning squad of last year, but his present idea seems to be to start building a new team to defend the World Cup in 1998.

Brazil are one of the big exporters of leading players to foreign clubs, but lately a lot of them have returned – homesick, tired of rigid training regimes or unable to stand the cold – such as Romario, Dunga, Taffarel and Mazinho. But while the Copa America squad had not been picked at press time, Zagalo's 22-man squad which played matches abroad in April and May included eight World Cup men, but only three who played in the last Copa America, when Brazil were knocked out on penalties by Argentina in the quarter-finals. The 22 did not include Romario, who was recovering from injury at the time, but who had been quoted as saying that he did not want to play in the national team until the Olympic Games.

Zagalo said recently that he had not seen such an excellent crop of young players in Brazil for a long time. One of these, who was sure to find a place, was Amoroso, a playmaking, freescoring midfielder set to be a star of the future. However recent knee surgery will keep him out of action for six months.

Captain's example . . . Brazil's Dunga

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA were one of the few countries to have picked a 31-man squad from which the Copa America team would emerge, although there is nothing to say that there may not be changes. Under Hernan Gomez, assistant coach to Francisco Maturana in last year's World Cup finals, the squad includes seven men from the disappointing team who competed in the last Copa America – including the much-criticised Fredy Rincon and Faustino Asprilla.

The oldest player in the squad is defender Alexis Mendoza at 34. Another surprise is the inclusion of goalkeeper Rene Higuita, who lost his national team place in 1993 when he was imprisoned over kidnapping charges. Perhaps his return is not so surprising because he has been putting in outstanding performances for his club, Nacional. More surprising is the exclusion of another veteran, 33-year-old midfielder and former captain Carlos Valderrama, who has also starred for his table-topping team, Atletico Junior, this season.

Many thought Colombia played the best soccer in the last two South American Championships, although without success. What was obvious – also in the World Cup finals – was their lack of will to win. In several internationals this year they have done nothing outstanding. They may again delight us with their pretty soccer, but they don't look like title contenders.

High-flier . . . Colombian keeper Rene Higuita

ECUADOR

ECUADOR are another country who have named their squad – at least 18 players – under new coach Francisco Maturana (ex-Colombia). This includes seven players from the 1993 Copa America squad – mostly in defence and none well-known outside the country.

Ecuador did not have a regular national team or coach from when Yugoslav Dusan Drascovic resigned after the 1993 Copa America until Maturana was engaged in March. They played only four games last year and their only good result was a surprise 1-0 home win over an Argentina side on their way to the World Cup. Ecuador rapidly assembled a team for that match, but the rot had already started in the Argentinian team at the time. Ecuador have played no games this year and were due to have their only preparation with games in the Kirin Cup in Japan and the Korea Cup.

The war with Peru earlier this year did not help preparations, but the FA has asked CONMEBOL not to change the groups, so they will be facing Peru in a game which could be vital to both countries' chances of reaching the quarter-finals as one of two best third-placed teams. Ecuador did reach the semi-finals last time, eventually finishing fourth, but there are no indications that they can do it again.

PERU

PERU surprisingly won their group ahead of Brazil in 1993. They scored only two goals in three group games and went out to Mexico in the quarter-finals. With their excessive ball-playing they have continued to find goals hard to get, but they surprised in their latest international (before press time) by beating Chile 6-0, their biggest victory in years. Flavio Maestri, 21 – who played in the last Copa America – and Baroni, who each scored hat-tricks in the defeat of Chile, can be dangerous forwards if they get the right backing. The team's preparations were, of course, also held up by the war, but they have raised no objections in facing Ecuador in a possibly vital match.

World-beater . . . Brazil's Mazinho

Star striker . . . Colombia's Faustino Asprilla

Hat-trick hero . . . Peru's Flavio Maestri

Group C

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, United States

ARGENTINA

WHEN Daniel Passarella was made national team coach last year he picked a completely new squad with only two men who had gone to the World Cup finals that year – midfielder Hugo Perez and striker Ariel Ortega – and one other former international, defender Nestor Fabbri. The others were all newcomers, mostly in their early 20s and some in their teens.

The team have played some good soccer in several internationals, showing that Argentina seem to have no end of talent. Especially outstanding is the new number 10, Marcelo Gallardo, who at only 18 is an intelligent midfield playmaker.

For some of the more important games, such as the Intercontinental Cup in January, Passarella recalled World Cup defender Jose Chamot and striker Gabriel Batistuta from Italy, but he seems reluctant to use foreign-based players. Two who did move to foreign clubs – Perez and Marcelo Espino (whom he had made captain) – were not picked again and at the moment he says he is only sure of recalling Javiet Zanetti, the 22-year-old defender on his way to Internazionale in Italy.

Dan Dare . . . Argentina boss Passarella

Chile's top gun . . . Real Madrid striker Ivan Zamorano

New faces . . . Argentinian youngsters Ariel Ortega and *(above)* Marcelo Gallardo

Nevertheless, Argentina should be candidates to win the title for the third time running, but as I reported in last month's *WORLD SOCCER,* almost the entire team were young enough to play in the recent Pan-American Games, where they faced less experienced rivals and semi-amateurs. Firm favourites on home ground, they did not have it all their own way, especially in the final against Mexico, who outplayed them at times and only lost on penalties. And in their last match before press time they were held to a 1-1 draw by unfancied South Africa. Gallardo's penalties had pulled them through, just as in the Pan-Am Games.

Of all their injuries, the most felt will be the absence of leading striker Sebastian Rambart (whose father was a French international), but this is a new look team in another sense too. The players and coaching staff are smartly dressed on and off the field and all with short hair – even Batistuta had to cut his – under Passarella's orders.

BOLIVIA

BOLIVIA went for another Spaniard as coach – Antonio Lopez – when Xavier Azkargorta resigned, but after just six weeks, and with less than two months to go to the Copa America, they kicked him out. It seems he had not seen eye to eye with FA officials. During that time Bolivia played only one game – a 0-0 draw with lowly Venezuela. Later they drew 1-1 with Paraguay. Both games were at home and Bolivia, using eight World Cup men in the second game, did not look good.

Still captaining the team was 38-year-old midfielder Carlos Borja. Two leading players abroad are Marco Etcheverry and Erwin Sanchez, but their presence is not likely to make much difference. Bolivia will struggle for a quarter-final place.

CHILE

CHILE signed Spanish coach Xavier Azkargorta, who had surprised many, by taking Bolivia into last year's World Cup finals. In January he picked a 24-man squad that included quite a few of the young players who had taken Chile to third place in the recent South American Under-20 Championships and not many who had played in the 1993 Copa America. In their first international under Azkargorta, Chile lost by a surprising 6-0 to Peru, who are notoriously weak in the goalscoring department, leaving the new manager with much to sort out.

The only player likely to be called from abroad is Real Madrid's Ivan Zamorano. Chile have some good young players, notably another striker, Sebastian Rozental, but they may have trouble getting to the quarter-finals.

UNITED STATES

THE US did not send their strongest team to the last Copa America, because of other tournaments being on at the same time, and did not win a game. This time will be different and they will use the US '95 Cup as a serious warm-up, but it was not known what foreign-based players they will have available. Nor did they have a coach at press time. American Steve Sampson was doing the job on an interim basis. Their only clash with a South American team this year was a 2-2 draw with Uruguay.

But in the United States they always think big. After the dismissal earlier this year of Bora Milutinovic they went for no less than Brazil's World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira. The offer came too late. Parreira had just renewed his contract with Spain's Valencia, but he said he was honoured.

Foreign star . . . Bolivia's Erwin Sanchez

Animal crackers

Crazy scenes greeted Flamengo's signing of the baddest of Brazil's bad boys, Edmundo. Brian Homewood reports on animal passions aroused in Rio

BRAZIL'S biggest transfer of recent times was marked by scenes rare for even this soccer-crazy country.

Flamengo, having signed Palmeiras striker Edmundo, nicknamed the Animal, for a domestic record £3.3million, arranged a motorcade to take him from the airport to the ground, and he travelled on a fire engine accompanied by the Mayor of Rio, Cesar Maia, and a chimpanzee dressed in a Flamengo shirt. The motorcade also included a circus truck containing two elephants and a tiger.

The animal theme was taken up at Flamengo's Rio State League game with Vasco da Gama when hundreds of fans turned up with live animals to celebrate their new signing's wild image. Many of the unwilling fans were dogs, dressed in Flamengo shirts and hats and clearly petrified by the screaming crowd. There was even a giant tortoise with the Flamengo flag painted on its shell.

The government environment agency Ibama warned supporters they risked arrest if caught carrying live animals into grounds in the future. "The place for live fauna is in the wild," a spokesman said.

Edmundo (pronounced Ed-gee-mundo) is a 24-year-old compound of remarkable skill and ferocious temperament, as *WORLD SOCCER* readers well know. His signing, which the club hope will lead to the formation of a formidable strikeforce alongside that other controversial character, Romario, led to a surge of interest and increased ticket sales, with the soccer authorities seemingly willing to bend their own rules to help the newcomer settle in with the Rio club.

Edmundo spent nearly three turbulent years at Palmeiras, helping them to win two Brazilian and two Sao Paulo championships but also being involved in various disciplinary scrapes, bust-ups with team-mates and opponents and brushes with authority. Eventually matters came to a head, when the club suspended him for 15 days after criticising the board, and the transfer became inevitable.

Once the euphoria quietened down, people began to appreciate the problems Flamengo had created for themselves.

Firstly, how will Romario – so used to being king of the hill – react to being upstaged by a younger man who, although now a team-mate, is an obvious rival? Various problems have meant that the Animal had been let out to play for his country on a mere nine occasions prior to the Umbro Cup. Romario's place could be at risk if Edmundo continues where he left off in that tournament.

Much may depend on what happens during Romario's injury-enforced absence – he hurt a knee on the day before Edmundo's signing, and was likely to be out for five weeks.

Secondly, will the hugely gifted but volatile Edmundo make a genuine effort to tone down his excesses on and off the pitch?

And third, when will he actually get a game? He is theoretically barred from taking part in the Rio de Janeiro championship, reaching its climax at the time of his signing, because of his disciplinary record. The same situation prevents him from taking part in the Copa Brasil. The Brazilian championship, Flamengo's next competition, does not start until August.

Flamengo president Kleber Leite said he was hoping to overturn the rule banning clubs from fielding new signings in the Rio championship. Rio Federation president Eduardo Viana also was in favour of allowing Edmundo in and said the rules could be changed if all other clubs were in favour. Why? Because Edmundo's presence would bring in more fans, he said. But Botafogo and Fluminense said they were against such tinkering with the regulations.

Edmundo's selection was the big surprise among the 22 players named for the Brazilian squad to travel to England for the Umbro Cup, although one of the all-time greats, Zico, describes him as "the best Brazilian player in activity

Animal magic... fans welcome Edmundo, the Animal

today". His frequent problems – shouting at coaches, shoving referees, roughing up journalists and fighting with opponents and team-mates alike – continue to make him a liability.

National coach Mario Zagalo, who once kept Romario out of the squad for disicplinary reasons, said he wouldn't stand for it. After Edmundo completed a 40-day suspension for fighting with Sao Paulo defender Andre, Zagalo did not include him for an exhibition game with Israel, saying he could not reward indiscipline.

But there was simply no denying Edmundo's talent, and eventually Zagalo changed his mind. But Edmundo has seemed impervious to such lessons in his short turbulent, career

He started with Botafogo but was kicked off the junior team for walking around naked at training camp. He went across town to Vasco da Gama, where he won the Rio title in his first year as a pro. In 1992, he was sold to Palmeiras, a traditional club without a title in 20 years.

Backed by Italian dairy giant Parmalat, Palmeiras put together a team of stars such as Mazinho, Cesar Sampaio, Zinho, Evair, Roberto Carlos and Colombia's Fredy Rincon. None shone brighter than Edmundo. His skill and snarling, scrappy style of play delighted hard-to-please fans. When Edmundo was on a run, they chanted: "Ow, ow, ow, Edmundo is an animal." The nickname stuck.

In 1993, he was named in the national team but he was left off the 1994 World Cup squad. One reason was his temper. When he lost it, which was often, Edmundo would rage out of control. He kicked and punched team-mates, jawed with his coach for pulling him from a game and was suspended, but was reinstated when the team's play suffered. In a celebrated incident last year, Edmundo tried to pick a fight with a Rio drug trafficker during a sandlot pickup game.

In March, he kicked a cameraman during a game in Quito for the Copa Libertadores, sparked a near riot, and spent several days in jail.

Edmundo also was a fixture on newspaper society pages. He was often spotted in nightclubs and was named by a top fashion model as the father of her child. He was rude to journalists, and said why in typically blunt fashion: "They don't like me, and I don't like them."

Edmundo's latest brush with authority came when he criticised the CBF's admittedly pathetic disciplinary system. Palmeiras had managed to get him off his 40-day-plus-five-match suspension for his part in last October's Sao Paulo-Palmeiras brawl in which he and five other players were sent off and riot police called in, allowing him to play in the Libertadores Cup against Bolivar of Bolivia.

Palmeiras had already appealed twice and Edmundo on both occasions had been allowed to play in the period between the day the appeal was registered and the day the hearing took place. One of these gaps was three months long, during which Edmundo took part in the Brazilian championship final, playing a decisive role. Both appeals had eventually confirmed the punishment.

Even the chief beneficiary himself was astounded at the latest reprieve. "The system's a complete mess," he said. The CFB's pompously named Supreme Tribunal of Sporting Justice hypocritically threatened Edmundo with a charge of bringing the game into disrepute for the remark. The disrepute charge was later dropped, leaving Edmundo with another much-needed chance to sort out his career.

Hopefully, he will not waste it. He has the potential to be a really big star – if he does not self-destruct.

MEN IN THE NEWS

MARADONA'S next stop could well be Buenos Aires. After resigning from Racing Club in Argentina when the club's president, Juan De Stefano – who had given him the job – lost club elections, it was reported that Pele had offered him the job of player-coach at Santos when his FIFA-imposed drug ban ends in September. He now seems set to return his former club Boca Juniors.

TULIO, Botafogo's new star and the Rio League's joint top scorer with Romario on 23 goals, recently changed his religion. Brought up as a Catholic, Tulio converted to an evangelical church and was re-baptised in the swimming pool of his penthouse flat.

RENE HIGUITA became the second South American goalkeeper to score from a free-kick in League soccer in a year, when he helped Nacional to a 3-1 victory over Deportivo Pereira. Pedro Rodriguez, the goalkeeper Higuita beat, got his own back eight minutes later when he converted a penalty for Pereira.

Free-kick specialist . . . Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita

JUAN CARLOS MACIEL, Independiente Medellin's Argentinian goalkeeper, became the first player to test positive after drug testing was introduced in Colombia six months ago. Curiously his urine sample showed contents of a drug (Lidocaine) which is used as an anaesthetic and slows reflexes. He protested his innocence, only to test positive a second time. He was suspended for 12 games, after admitting to taking the drug to deaden pain from an arm injury.

JAVIET ZANETTI and **SEBASTIAN RAMBERT**, Argentinian internationals, have been transferred from Banfield and Independiente respectively to Italy's Internazionale.

IN ARGENTINA . . . Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata, coached by Carlos Griguol, once a strong candidate for national team coach when he won a title with Rosario Central in the 1970s, currently top the National A Division closing championship, ahead of San Lorenzo on goal difference.

IN BRAZIL . . . Botafogo, Flamengo and Fluminense were all level on points at the top of the final stage of the Rio League with five rounds of fixtures left to play. Vasco, fighting for their fourth successive title, appeared to have slipped out of the race and were four points behind.

IN CHILE . . . champions Universidad de Chile lead by a point after six games although they were beaten 3-0 by Colo Colo, for whom Argentinian international midfielder Marcelo Espina stood out. Colo Colo and Cobreloa were joint second.

IN COLOMBIA . . . Atletico Junior, of Barranquilla, for whom midfielder Carlos Valderrama, 33, is playing as well as ever, top the table by three points from America.

IN URUGUAY . . . Nacional, who are $4million in debt and could not begin the season because they owed money to 31 players, finally started playing in the fourth round of the championship thanks to a loan from the Argentinian TV company which has the rights to Uruguayan soccer. They soon made up for lost time by shooting to the top of the table, a point behind Penarol.

IN VENEZUELA . . . the final round was in progress with champions Caracas FC in the lead by a point with three games to go. However, games were in danger of being suspended because Maritimo – who qualified, but were excluded because their stadium was too small – won a temporary court order.

ERIC WEIL

Nigeria's big guns crash out

NIGERIAN clubs have suffered a surprise reversal in the African club competitions, with three of their four representatives out before the quarter-final stage.

CAF Cup holders Bendel Insurance were knocked out in the second round by upstarts Inter Club of Congo. Nigeria's other team in the tournament, Shooting Stars, went out to Malian club Djoliba.

In the Champions Cup, where Nigeria have still not tasted victory in some 30 years of participation, BCC Lions were eliminated by South Africa's Orlando Pirates. Now Nigeria's hopes rest with Cup-winners Cup representatives Julius Berger.

Their second round, second leg tie against AS Nianan de Kouikoro of Mali was postponed but they lead comfortably 5-0 from the first leg at home.

In Algeria, US Vhaouia lost at home to Zimbabwe's Dynamos in the Champions Cup and JS Bordj Menaiel were edged out of the CAF Cup by Tunisia's Etoile Sahel.

In the Champions Cup there was a repeat of the ugly incidents that damage African football's image. Gambia's Real Banjul walked off the pitch after 70 minutes of their match against Mbilinga of Gabon after going 4-0 down. The CAF is expected to come down hard on Gambia.

● BURKINA FASO, Gabon, Sierra Leone and Zambia have qualified for next year's African Nations Cup but Morocco, who lost 2-0 to Ivory Coast, are all but out. So too Zimbabwe, who were beaten 5-0 in Zaire without 10 of their regulars because of fears of the fatal Ebola virus.

MARK GLEESON

CENTRAL AFRICA

GABON

MBILINGA have signed Nigerians Lucky Ozuwere from Bendel Insurance and Akin Adewale of Iwuanuanywu Nationale in an effort to beef up their squad for the quarter-finals of the African Champions Cup.

ZAIRE

FORMER national team coach Ricky Nsingi has died aged 48 after a short illness. Nsingi was previously coach of AS Vita and FC Mabilu.

EAST AFRICA

UGANDA

SPORTS CLUB Villa lead the championship with a slender one-point advantage over defending champions Express, who have three games in hand. Express striker Andrew Arinaitwe is joint leading scorer in the League with Ibrahim Kizito of UEB. Both have six goals.

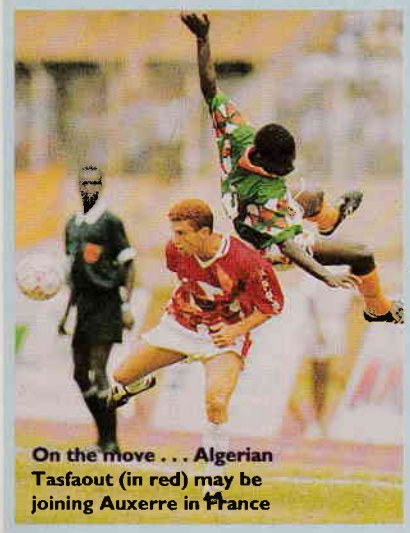
NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

ALGERIA'S national team is in a state of crisis. Rabah Madjer's position as coach was untenable after a 1-1 draw with Uganda at the beginning of the month saw them eliminated from the African Nations Cup. Also, they are protesting to the CAF after the previous 2-0 defeat by Sudan. The match was postponed for 24 hours after the officials from Gabon failed to arrive. In the end both teams agreed that a referee be brought in from Egypt. But Algeria are now protesting after discovering that Sudan had not even provided tickets for the officials as per the competition rules.

Abdelhafid Tasfaout, capped 30 times and top scorer in the Algerian league for the last two seasons, is set to move to France to join Auxerre.

In the League, JS Kabylis enjoy a five-point lead over four clubs in second place.



On the move . . . Algerian Tasfaout (in red) may be joining Auxerre in France

MOROCCO

WITH five rounds of the championship left, champions Kawkab Marrakesh, Wydad Casablanca and COD Meknes share the lead with 55 points. Royal Armed Forces, coached by Brazilian Jose Wilson, are just one point behind, also in line for a role in what could turn out to be a thrilling finish. Struggling Cred Agricole have signed Nigerian striker Ishaya Jatau.

TUNISIA

CHAMPIONS Esperance trail joint leaders CS Sfaxien and Club Africain by a single point. However, the Tunis-based glamour club have a game in hand.

MARK GLEESON

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

DESPORTIVO Maputo have opened up a three point-gap over neighbours Ferroviario after nine rounds of the championship. defending champions Costa do Sol are a further point behind. The leading goalscorer in the championship is Desportivo Maputo's Angel with 11 goals.

SWAZILAND

ARMANDO FERREIRA, the Portuguese-born former national team coach of Zimbabwe, has taken over the Swazi national side. Previous appointment, Brandao de Freitas of Brazil, failed to arrive to take up his job.

ZIMBABWE

THE Zimbabwean federation's patience with German-born coach Reinhardt Fabisch has finally run out and he has been dismissed after leading an alleged player revolt over money. Fabisch, a long-time campaigner for better conditions and financial rewards for the Zimbabwe national team, was fired just days

Out . . . Reinhardt Fabisch

before the Nations Cup qualifier against Malawi. Players demanded 40 per cent of the gate takings, which amounted to more than £30,000. Fellow German Rudi Gutendorf is expected to run the team in their final two Nations Cup qualifiers. Meanwhile, players refused to accept cheques for some $200 each as bonus after the 1-1 draw with Malawi in Harare.

Meanwhile, Bruce Grobbelaar and nine other Zimbabwe national team players, including Coventry's Peter Ndlovu, face disciplinary action after refusing to travel to Zaire for their ill-fated African Nations Cup qualifier because of fears about the Ebola virus.

Zimbabwe's coach Gibson Homela felt so let down after the convincing 5-0 defeat that he has vowed never to work with the 10 again. The country's leading national newspaper also took a dim view, particularly over Grobbelaar. The former Liverpool goalkeeper was castigated for "abusing the fans' faith" despite the fact that the Zimbabwe Health Minister had called for the fixture to be cancelled.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

THE national team, on the verge of a major upset in the Nations Cup qualifiers, were rewarded with a handout of some £30,000 from president Blaise Compaore after their fine performances against Ivory Coast and Morocco.

IVORY COAST

ABIDJAN giants ASEC and Africa Sports both lead their respective sections in the First Division. Africa Sports share top place in Pool A with

Back in business . . . Serge Maguy

Issia, while defending champions ASEC are four points ahead of Stade Abidjan in pool B. National team captain Serge-Alain Maguy ***(above)*** is back in action after breaking his leg. The former Atletico Madrid midfielder now plays for ASEC.

GHANA

CUP-WINNERS Hearts of Oak are seeking FIFA's assistance in obtaining outstanding transfer fees owed by Turkish club Samsunspor after the sale of Eben Dugbartey and Owusu Benson. Asante Kotoko have sacked Ivorian-born coach Boubacaf Ouattara.

MAURITANIA

BIRAMA GAYE has been fired after the national team's home defeat by Senegal in the Nations Cup qualifiers. He is the second coach to have been dismissed during the campaign.

SENEGAL

DIARAF DAKAR head pool A and ASC Ndiambour are top of pool B after 13 rounds of the two-stream First Division.

MARK GLEESON

Kobe rise from the rubble

VISSEL KOBE made an emotional debut in their earthquake-torn city with a charity match against a selection from Rio de Janeiro, Kobe's sister city in Brazil.

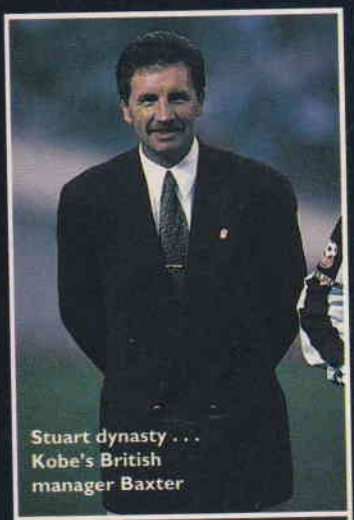
Despite heavy rain 26,815 fans thronged the Universiade Stadium to see their new home team battle to an honourable 1-1 draw. Midfielder Jun Naito, signed from Yokohama Flugels, scored the 88th-minute equaliser from a pass from Swiss international Thomas Bickel.

Manager Stuart Baxter, who led Sanfrecce Hiroshima to the J.League Suntory Series last year, said: "On such a miserable evening, and this was only a friendly, the fans proved that the people of Kobe really want a professional football team."

Life is slowly returning to normal in Kobe after the devastating earthquake that killed over 5,000 on January 17. Many buildings are still waiting for demolition, and thousands of people are living in emergency shelters, but the transport network and other basic services have been restored.

The size of the crowd, like the 'I Love Kobe' banners all over the city, showed how community spirit has grown up. In a sense, the football club launch came at just the right time.

Debut boys . . . Vissel Kobe line up before an emotional debut in Kobe


Stuart dynasty . . . Kobe's British manager Baxter

Swiss star . . . Kobe's international midfielder Thomas Bickel

Baxter says: "I hope that the supporters will start to feel more for the team, and identify with and get to know the players. I hope we can get a relationship where we can get energy from the people and give energy back to the people."

Kawasaki Steel, on which Vissel Kobe are based, played in Kurashiki City in last year's Japan Football League (equivalent to the English First Division) and finished eighth. The move to Kobe was agreed last June.

The club's first training session was due on January 17, the day the earthquake struck. Baxter and other key staff were still in Europe signing foreign players. Tunisian striker Ziad Tlemcani had been signed from Vitoria Guimaraes of Portugal only the previous day.

Baxter says: "It is an indication of both Bickel's and Ziad's character that after the earthquake they both called me – I was in Sweden looking for a third foreigner – not to ask if their contracts were safe, but to ask about the families of the people in our delegation. I know of many professionals who would only have worried about their contract in Japan."

Vissel Kobe also were linked with England international Stuart Pearce of Nottingham Forest.

"I had many meetings with the manager, Frank Clark," says Baxter. "We were talking of Stuart being given a realistic transfer fee instead of a testimonial. It was stopped at the last moment because Forest were doing so well, and he got back into the England team."

Vissel Kobe briefly moved back to Kurashiki after the earthquake and began training there. Then a fresh shock came when the Kobe-based Daiei supermarket chain, the club's biggest sponsor, pulled out because of earthquake-related losses. But other local companies are coming forward to plug the gap.

The time spent in Kurashiki has helped Baxter to build his team. "At the end we were getting on each other's nerves a bit," he says. "But during the season that time together is probably going to build some sort of bond for us."

Roger Spry and former goalkeeper Gerry Peyton, from Jubilo Iwata, are Vissel's coaches under Baxter.

New Japanese players include several from J.League clubs, including four from Baxter's previous team, Sanfrecce Hiroshima: veteran defender Hiroshi Matsuda, midfielders Masakazu Koda and Tetsuya Tanaka, and Baxter's 19-year-old son Lee, a goalkeeper, understudy to former Flugels veteran Ryuji Ishizue.

They also have two former Nagoya Grampus Eight regulars, defenders Michihiro Tsuruta and Shigemitzu Egawa, plus Yuji Yaso from Gamba Osaka. But Baxter readily admits that if he still had his pre-earthquake budget, he would have been looking for several more Japanese players from J.League clubs.

"We have had so many difficulties in the beginning – we lost time because of the earthquake, we had organisational problems – so the important thing is to have a reasonable start, so that we stay in the top four or five until the half-way stage.

"And if we are there, we will get better and have a very good chance of winning the league. We are dangerous."

The minimum requirement for gaining full J.League status in 1996 is to finish in the top two of the Japan Football League. Three other teams – Kyoto Sanga, Fukuoka Blux and Tosu Futures – also have associate status and will compete hard for those positions.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

MULLER QUITS

BRAZILIAN World Cup striker Muller has shocked Japanese fans by quitting after only two months with Kashiwa Reysol.

His untimely departure was blamed on family problems, but as manager Ze Sergio noted, it seemed that Muller ***(left)*** failed to adapt to life in Japan.

Reysol crashed 4-0 to Antlers and slipped to the bottom of the J.League rankings on the day of the announcement.

The longed-for opportunity to see Muller resume his old World Cup partnership with Careca materialised only five times in the League.

Muller, who nearly joined Everton last summer, scored five goals in 11 J.League matches. Although signed from Sao Paulo on a two-year contract, he now seems set to move to Brazilian club Corinthians.

If the move goes ahead, Reysol are expected to receive around $2million.

Solari's shake-up

JORGE SOLARI has led Yokohama Marinos to the top of the J.League with versatile attacking formations and heavy reliance on youth.

Two 18-year-olds, Naoki Matsuda and Ryuji Kubota, are fast becoming regulars in defence and rear midfield. Yoshito Terakawa, aged 20, has appeared in most matches in midfield while the new regular keeper is 19-year-old Olympic player Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi.

But while the young are prospering, the veterans have felt the heat. The first to go was Tamon Diaz, the J.League's top scorer with 28 goals in 1993.

When Solari told him that he was no longer being considered as a part of team strategy, Diaz, who is old enough to know what that means, regretfully chose to quit.

The choice of Kawaguchi over 32-year-old national team goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga produced a less dignified departure. The desire to give a promising young keeper match practice, instead of keeping him permanently on the bench, made sense, but Matsunaga did not see it that way. Solari's view was that if Matsunaga did not want to cooperate, then he was not needed.

Where will Matsunaga go now? He has missed the deadline for transfer to another J.League team during the Suntory Series, but says he will not retire. "I will keep on playing whatever happens," he insists.

The debacle also lost Matsunaga his national team place for the Kirin Cup and the Umbro Cup in England. He had been dropped from the national team when Falcao took over last year, but was reinstated by Shu Kamo, the present manager. Kamo, however, has always said that he would select only players currently playing for their club's first team, and he stayed true to his word.

"I didn't choose Matsunaga because he is not playing", said Kamo. "That is a basic principle. It might have been different if he was invaluable, but I consulted with our goalkeeper coach and his opinion was there would be no problem with the three keepers we have.

All that comes as cold comfort to Japan's most experienced national goalkeeper.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

Grampus in the goals

GRAMPUS EIGHT recorded their fourth consecutive home victory in style with a 6-0 trouncing of new boys Cerezo Osaka.

The result was sweet revenge for an earlier penalty defeat and confirmed that for Grampus there may be light at the end of the tunnel.

Grampus entered the post-Lineker era under former Monaco manager Arsene Wenger, and with two new French midfielders, Gerald Passi and Franck Durix, plus Brazilian defender Torres. They join Yugoslavian Dragan Stojkovic, who signed from Olympique Marseille last year.

The birth of the League's first side with a Gallic touch drew strong French media attention, recalling the English reports of two years ago. And at first, nothing else changed.

"We always have the feeling that we are not less good than the other teams," said beleaguered Wenger seven games into the season, after the 2-0 defeat by Yokohama Marinos.

Grampus' only win at that point was from a penalty shoot-out against Urawa. "But we always have the same problems. When we have offensive power, we take too many risks and expose ourselves to defensive gaps. When we have defensive stability, we cannot score. We have not yet found a real balance in our team."

He sounded a different note after the match with Cerezo, saying: "It was a victory for the whole squad, mixed with a little bit more confidence and better defensive positioning. We have improved."

Gerald Passi backed that up. "The players have learned many things and we put them into practice today. We were our own worst enemies, but the team are now waking up to that. We can improve more and more."

Wenger had little to celebrate in the early weeks after taking over from Gordon Milne. The first League match was a 3-1 defeat by Gamba Osaka, in which Kazuhisa Iijima and Dragan Stojkovic were sent off. Stojkovic received a three-match ban for telling the referee what he thought. And without Stojkovic, the team did not function.

He returned for the fifth match and Grampus looked a different outfit for 67 minutes against Bellmare Hiratsuka until Stojkovic, angered this time by an offside decision, was sent off again. Grampus, having dominated, went down 1-0 in extra time.

The results improved steadily after Stojkovic finished his second suspension, giving the feeling that Grampus are now the team that they should have been from the start.

Stojkovic has managed to stay on the pitch, Durix and Passi are fitting in and the whole team function smoothly.

Despite the goals against, Wenger is more worried about attack than defence. Lineker has gone, but there could be a place for another, fitter Lineker in the squad.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

Noguchi blitz blunts Antlers

KOJI NOGUCHI set a J.League scoring record with five goals in a game for Bellmare Hiratsuka.

And what a match to do it in – a 7-0 trouncing of Suntory Series leaders **KASHIMA ANTLERS**, just as everyone was thinking they were invincible after an eight-match winning streak.

There had been signs for the vigilant. Antlers had edged their two previous games only 1-0, against Jubilo Iwata and Urawa Red Diamonds, both in extra time. Jorginho and Leonardo were away with the Brazilian national team. And on the day Edu used his three substitutes early; then Antlers had to play on with 10 men after defender Naoki Soma was injured.

So much for the excuses. The wobble continued even after Jorginho, Leonardo and Soma returned. With only three wins in their last six games, Antlers no longer look quite the championship material they did a month ago.

Edu must have been glad that the J.League broke off while the national team played in the Kirin Cup and the Umbro Cup in England.

The consolation is that most teams are doing just as well or as badly as Antlers. The standard looks higher this season, and the J.League's playing field is now about as level as it can get.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS made the point by moving back to the top thanks to a 0-0 draw and penalty loss to neighbours Yokohama Flugels, who are now bottom. Marinos then stayed top despite losing 2-1 to JEF, who had keeper Kenichi Shimokawa sent off.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA's goal-rush began the Saturday before the Kashima game with a 4-1 away win over Shimizu S Pulse. That was followed by the 7-0 game, a 5-1 win at Flugels, a 3-4 home defeat to JEF, and the 4-2 win at Gamba. A total of 23 goals in five matches.

Noguchi and Betinho are currently joint second in the scoring rankings with 11 apiece, behind Salvatore Schillaci of Jubilo Iwata.

Wim Jansen's **SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA** are also well placed to challenge for the title after the break.

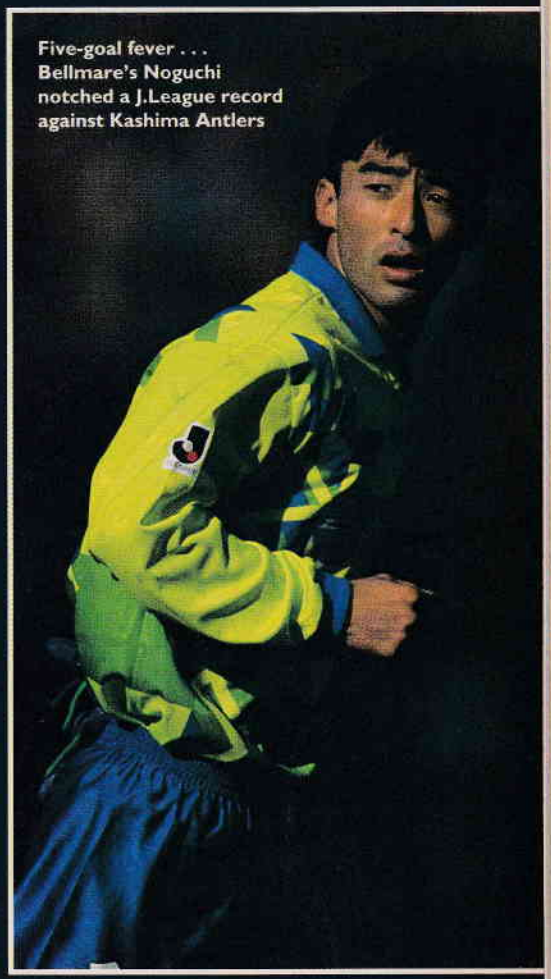
Centre-forward Takuya Takagi is back in training after his serious hamstring injury in last year's championship match. Veteran midfielder Yahiro Kazama, who played in Germany for Bayer Leverkusen, FC Remscheid and Eintracht Braunschweig, is also well on the road to recovery.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS, the perennial bottom team, could have been up there, too, with a bit more luck in penalty shoot-outs. They are looking more sophisticated under new German manager Holger Osieck, and have found their scoring touch.

CEREZO OSAKA's luck ran out in the worst possible way when manager Paulo Emilio Frossard Jorge had a heart attack. He is now recovering from a by-pass operation but the team have lost their way without his guiding hand.

Nothing has gone right for **YOKOHAMA FLUGELS**, either. They are bottom of the table, and manager Bunji Kimura stepped down after a 5-1 defeat by Bellmare. He has been replaced by Brazilian Antonio Carlos Da Silva.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA



Five-goal fever . . . Bellmare's Noguchi notched a J.League record against Kashima Antlers

HONG KONG

Topsy-turvy life at the top

HAPPY VALLEY'S reign as leaders of the First Division in Hong Kong came to an abrupt end as defending champions Eastern defeated them 3-0 in a top-of-the-table clash in the Mongkok Stadium.

This was Valley's first defeat in 10 League matches, and in their next game, against title challengers South China, they lost 2-0, so South China took over the leadership.

In a topsy-turvy season, with half of the 10 members of the First Division taking turns at the lead, Eastern again took over at the top with a 4-1 victory over Frankwell. Tempest scored twice, making him top League scorer on eight.

Golden, who have Carlton Fairweather from Wimbledon as player-coach, plus former Manchester United and England full-back Mike Duxbury and one-time Aston Villa defender Gary Williams, then took the lead with a 3-0 victory over bottom club Kitchee, who look sure to be relegated.

Sing Tao won the first trophy of the season when they beat Instant-Dict 3-0 in the final of the Viceroy Cup, Hong Kong's premier knock-out tournament. All three goals were scored by former English non-League player Nick Dent.

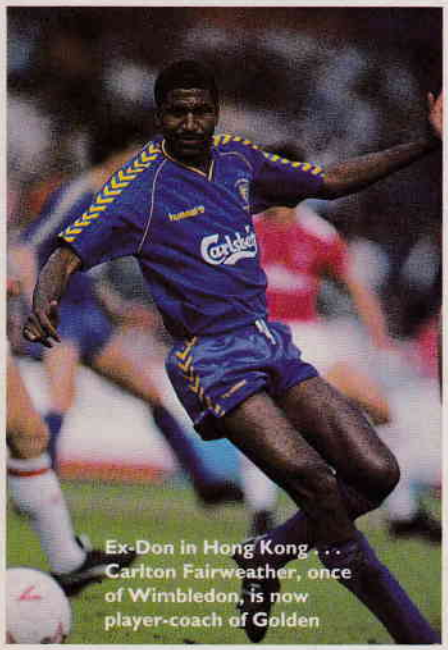
For Sing Tao this was only their third trophy, following the League in 1948 and the Challenge Shield in 1992.

Instant-Dict, now in their fourth year of existence and, like Golden, the footballing arm of rival electronic dictionary companies, have now lost four finals and been runners-up in the League twice.

There are question marks over whether Instant-Dict will continue next season, with relegation a strong possibility. After being among the favourites for the championship at the start of the season, this would provide disastrous publicity for owner Thomas Tam.

This season's champions will face Japanese champions Verdy Kawasaki in the first round of the Asian Club Championship, on September 16 and 30.

TAI WAI CHEUNG



Ex-Don in Hong Kong . . . Carlton Fairweather, once of Wimbledon, is now player-coach of Golden

● RANGERS qualified for this year's Asian Cup-winners Cup by beating Happy Valley 3-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the final of the Senior Challenge Shield.

It was the first time Rangers had won the Shield in 20 years. In the Cup-winners Cup, Rangers will play holders Yokohama Flugels of Japan over two legs for a place in the quarter-finals.

Rangers' hero in the shoot-out was Newcastle-born goalkeeper Peter Guthrie, formerly with Spurs. He was working in a supermarket in Gosforth when his career was rescued by the Hong Kong club last summer.

JEREMY WALKER

LEBANON

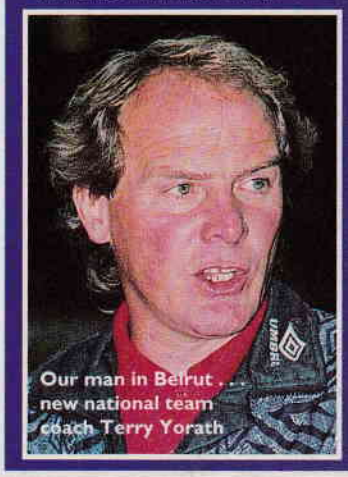
Yorath signs up

TERRY YORATH has signed an 18-month contract with the Lebanese Football Association.

The former Wales manager will coach the national team in the 11th Asian Cup qualifiers (where Lebanon face Kuwait and Turkmenistan), and the 8th Arab Cup, due to be held in Beirut, in September 1996.

Al Ansar won the League for the seventh time in a row – and their supporters celebrated in the Beirut streets until four o'clock the next morning.

Al Ansar's final match of the season ended in a 0-0 draw at home to Al Safae, but they still finished seven points clear of runners-up Al Nejma, Lebanon's most popular club.



Our man in Beirut . . . new national team coach Terry Yorath

Al Ansar have now won every edition of the title since the 1987/88 season, thanks in part to their eight international players, but also because of the huge financial support from Lebanese Prime Minister and petro-dollar tycoon, Sheikh Rafik Al-Hariri.

Al Salam were relegated to Division Two for the first time in 24 years, along with Ahli Saida. They will be replaced next season by Al Riyada and Shabab Sahel.

● TADAMON'S Mohamed Kallon finished runner-up in the goalscorers' chart with 15 – quite an achievement considering the Sierra Leone forward is aged only 15 years and seven months. Other foreign players who reached double figures included Vassili Catchourek (Romania), Emmanuel Harris (Liberia), David Nakeed (Trinidad and Tobago) and Salah Nasr (Egypt).

● LEADING SCORERS: 16, Vitali Agassian (Homenmen); 15, Mohamed Kallon (Tadamon); 14, Shaaban Hamada (Harakat); 13, Vassili Catchourek (Al Hekma).

MOHAMED HAMADE

MALAYSIA

THE Malaysian FA has taken another stringent measure in its ongoing campaign against match fixing.

57 footballers who confessed to fixing matches in the National League have been banned worldwide for one and four years by the FAM Council.

Seven of those banned played in 1993 World Cup qualifiers for Malaysia, three in the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games and two were members of the Atlanta Pre-Olympic squad.

Malaysian Police, who have questioned 126 players and coaches since August last year, have yet to charge any of them. The latest batch of punished players are accused of taking bribes of up to £10,000 from bookies to fix results of matches in the 16-team Malaysian League. A total £350,000 was, it is alleged, exchanged to rig results.

● SABAH won the Malaysian FA Cup for the first time after appearing in their third consecutive final. The 3-1 victory over Pahang was celebrated with a state-wide public holiday.

● PAHANG'S bad-patch continued when they lost 3-2 to Kuala Lumpur in the final of the Charity Shield, held between the winners of last year's FA Cup and Malaysia Cup. Pahang, who were runners-up to Singapore in last season's Cup, stepped in after Singapore withdrew from the Malaysia League.

AZAM MAHMOOD

ASIAN FOOTBALL

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CHINA

CHAMPIONS Dalian suffered their first defeat of the season when they went down 2-1 in the capital Beijing.

Although the match was shown live on TV, it still attracted a capacity crowd of 30,000 – reflecting the growing interest in the second season of fully professional football.

Beijing took the lead in the ninth minute through international striker Gao Feng and added a second six minutes later through Nan Fang.

Although Wei Yimin pulled one back for the champions early in the second half, Dalian could not find an equaliser.

After five rounds, Dalian lead the standings on 10 points. Yanbian, Beijing and Guangdong, the pre-season favourites following their signing of 1994 Player of the Year Li Bing from Liaoning, are a point behind on nine points.

SOUTH KOREA

HYUNDAI HORANG-I won the Adidas Cup in South Korea – a curtain-raiser round-robin tournament to the new League season.

Hyundai won five and drew two of their seven matches to lead the standings on 17 points, four clear of Ilhwa Chonma, last season's champions.

Hyundai scored 14 times and had the tournament's two leading marksmen in six-goal Kim Hyun-seok and five-goal Song Ju-seok.

JEREMY WALKER

OMAN

SUR won the League championship for the first time, beating Al Seib 2-1 in a play-off watched by 15,000 fans.

Both teams had finished the 26-match League schedule on 58 points, so played an extra game to settle the championship.

Mohamed Khamis gave Sur the lead in the 82nd minute and Yousef Saleh made the game safe five minutes later. Although Hammoud Khalfan pulled one back for Al Seib in the final minute, Sur were always in command.

Sur's only previous successes were in the Oman Cup in 1972 and 1992.

QATAR

AL RAYYAN added the HH Heir Apparent (Crown Prince) Cup to their First Division championship – and the star of the show was young striker Mohamed Salem Al Enazi.

Al Enazi, who scored Qatar's only goal (against Russia) in the recent World Youth Championship in Doha, grabbed a hat-trick in the semi-final against Al Shemal to send Al Rayyan through to the final, where they beat Al Arabi 1-0 with a goal from . . . Al Enazi.

The Cup, being held for the first time, featured the top four clubs in the League.

MOHAMED HAMADE

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL SHABAB of Dubai expectedly won the League title in the United Arab Emirates for only the second time in their history.

They finished six points ahead of Al Ain, losing only once (a 2-0 defeat by Al Nasr in the second week).

Last season's champions, Sharjah, proved the biggest upset of the campaign, ending sixth.

The Second Division champions, Bani Yas, returned to the First Division after only one season away, with Al Jazira relegated.

● AL AIN topped the newly-created Super Cup competition, at the half-way stage, with 11 points from a possible 15. The Super Cup was adopted for the first time this season, with the top six clubs in the League championship competing in the mini-league. Ironically, newly-crowned League champions, Al Shabab, are at the bottom of the table, while last season's champions, Sharjah, are in second position, with eight points, three adrift of Al Ain.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH clubs, Al Hilal, Al Riyadh SC, Jeddah side Al Ittihad and Al Ittifaq from Dammam have qualified for the semi-finals for the 1994/95 King's Cup.

In the Riyadh derby, Al Hilal knocked out Said Al-Owairan's club, Al Shabab, 2-1, Moroccon international striker Ahmed Bahja netting the winner 10 minutes into extra-time. Al Riyadh SC didn't have to stretch themselves, ousting Al Wahda of Madina, 2-0.

In the clash of the titans, Jeddah giants Al Ittihad thrashed Al Nasr of Riyadh, 3-1 at home, Russian forwards Vladimir Taratchouk and Oleg Serguiev scoring twice. Majed Abdullah got a consolation goal for Al Nasr in what proved to be his last game of a distinguished career. Al Ittifaq beat Al Sho'ola by the odd goal, Abdulaziz Al-Dossari scoring nine minutes into extra-time.

OMAN

THREE POINTS awarded to Al Sib shot them to the top of the League, two ahead of both Al Ourouba and Sour. The Federation gave them the points after their 0-0 clash with bottom-placed Sadab, who fielded an ineligible player, Moussa Sangari of Senegal. Al Sib have 48 points, Al Ourouba and Sour 46.

KUWAIT

AL SALMIYA won the 1994/95 League title 14 years after collecting their first ever championship.

Incredibly Al Salmiya clinched the title despite being the only side with no foreign players, following the re-admission of the 'Stranieri' at the season's kick-off. The club headed the table from the fifth week and won the title with two weeks remaining, collecting 60 points, 10 ahead of their only challengers, Al Qadsia.

Last season's champions Qazma, slipped down to fourth place, with 45 points, one point adrift of the season's surprise team, Al Jahraa. One of the favourites at the start of the season, Al Kuwait FC, coached by Englishman John Cartwright, finished a disappointing seventh, 23 adrift of the champions.

SYRIA

AL JAISH (Army), one of the most prestigious local clubs in the past, with five League titles and one Cup, are through to the semi-finals of the Cup. Fellow Second Division sides, Banias and Abou Kamal, were knocked out by Jaish in earlier rounds.

Hottin, the trophy favourites, are the sensation of the season so far, ousting last season's League champions Al Horria (1-0) and runners-up Jabala (4-2). In the other semi-final, Al Shourta, who beat last season's Cup holders, Al Ittihad, on penalties, take on Al Karama.

MOHAMED CHBARO

BAHRAIN

AS EXPECTED, Muharraq wrapped up their 22nd Mumtaz League title in Bahrain, after an entertaining 2-2 draw with Al Wehda.

West Riffa were in second place, three points behind, and East Riffa third, two points further away.

Bahrain, who had scored only 19 goals in 17 matches, then beat Jidhafs 8-1, the biggest victory of the season, on the final day. Jidhafs have to play off against Sitra, the runners-up in Division One, to determine who will play in next season's Mumtaz.

Al Malkiya took the First Division championship, and the automatic promotion place, with 32 points, two more than Sitra and three ahead of Al Hala.

The event had been disrupted by the withdrawal of Al Arabi and Al Khaleej at the halfway stage.

Al Qadisiya's Rashid Jamal Salem was top scorer in the Mumtaz Division with 12 goals, out of his club's total of 19.

Attention now switches to the Amiri Cup, starting with first-round matches involving the First Division clubs, and leading to the entry of the Mumtaz teams in the second round.

AIDAN PAYNE

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, after withdrawing from the Malaysian League in protest at the Malaysian FA's allegation that the Singapore FA did not extend enough co-operation to punish players and bookmakers allegedly involved in rigging matches, have kept their Malaysian League-and-Cup-winning side intact under English coach Douglas Moore.

The team are participating in this year's Tiger Beer League in Singapore in preparation for the 18th South East Asian (SEA) Games. Singapore have never won a football gold medal at the SEA Games in its 34 year history.

In the opening match of this lop-sided league Singapore easily beat last year's FA Cup champions Tiong Bahru 5-0.

THAILAND

BANGKOK BANK, once the leading Thai club, recaptured former glories by winning the first Red Label Championship Cup. Though reduced to 10 men in the second half, Bangkok Bank managed to maintain a 1-1 draw after extra time against Stock Exchange and win the Cup on penalties (4-3).

In the semi-finals Bangkok Bank beat Rajpracha 1-0 and Stock Exchange beat Asian Club Cup Champions Thai Farmers Bank 3-0.

AZAM MAHMOOD

CONFEDERATION

SANYO MILD SEVEN SNICKERS

Canon FUJI FILM Clarion

Football, the Game of the Future.

Home and away

Paul Moon reports on the Aussie connection with English Premiership champions Blackburn Rovers

WITH his fashionably short red hair, gregarious personality and nasal accent, Robbie Slater could have stepped straight off a surfing beach or the set of a Down Under soap opera.

So it's a surprise to discover that Blackburn Rovers' Aussie international midfielder was born in the unglamorous Lancashire town of Ormskirk.

Robbie was 18 months old when his parents emigrated to Sydney where, with their encouragement, he developed an early interest in soccer. While still an infant, Slater joined the Revesby Workers' club. Stints with two other junior outfits, Revesby Rovers and Auburn, followed before St George introduced him to the senior ranks.

Upon coming under the wing of wily St George coach Frank Arok, Slater made rapid progress. As a 17-year-old, he registered 23 appearances and scored eight goals for the Saints side who finished runners-up in the Australian National League and won the end-of-season play-offs.

The following campaign – 1983 – saw the then flagship of Sydney's Hungarian community go one big step further by winning the League title. Slater again enjoyed an excellent season, but the year produced the first major disappointment of his career. He was omitted from the Australian squad chosen for the World Youth Cup finals in Mexico.

Slater had a point to prove in 1984 and this he did – forcing his way into the Australia B selection that played a series of games against the touring Glasgow Rangers, Nottingham Forest and Aris Salonika teams.

However, elevation to the senior national side was delayed for four years. Slater believes that he would have been capped much earlier but for a rift that developed between him and Arok, who also served as the Australia coach. Their relationship initially deteriorated at St George, prompting the powerful young linkman to join unfashionable Blacktown City. He stayed there just a single season before moving to Sydney Croatia (now Sydney United).

Slater played a pivotal role in Croatia's League Cup triumph in 1987, yet it was not until the following season that Arok called him up for A international duty.

1988 proved to be a vintage year. A Socceroos debut, against Brazil in the Bicentennial Gold Cup, was followed by eye-catching performances at the Seoul Olympics. To put the icing on the cake, he topped a poll among Australian fans to find the National League's 'Most Exciting Player'.

Socceroo star . . . Robbie Slater in national team colours

Buoyed by these successes, Slater travelled to Europe in pursuit of a full-time professional career. Two years earlier, he had had unsuccessful trials with Nottingham Forest. This time he was more fortunate, being signed by Anderlecht.

But things did not work out in Brussels. Frustrated at being unable to secure a first team place, Slater lost confidence and, by his own admission, developed an attitude that won him few friends. In the Australian's own words, he "stuffed up at Anderlecht" and, after 13 months, found himself transferred to Lens.

Slater flourished in France, becoming a cult figure and providing the midfield firepower that did much to carry Lens up to the First Division and keep them there. Regularly highly placed in French soccer magazine popularity polls, he was named Oceania Footballer of the Year in 1991 and 1993.

Wild Rover . . . Slater in action for Blackburn

Yet, there were still many in Australia who questioned his true capabilities. Slater, they argued, had never really impressed on the international stage. The doubters were silenced by sterling performances against New Zealand, Canada and Argentina during 1994 World Cup qualifying games.

Returning to Europe after Australia's elimination by the Argentinians, Slater was content at the prospect of signing a further three-year contract with Lens. Having married a local girl and greatly enjoying the lifestyle in France, 'Kangaroo', as the Lens fans rather unimaginatively dubbed him, gave little thought to moving elsewhere until his manager announced that Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers were offering lucrative terms for a move across the English Channel.

Slater made his debut for Rovers in the 1994 Charity Shield encounter with Manchester United and was a first team regular with the Ewood Park club right up until February, when the unaccustomed slog of an English season took its toll. Still suffering the effects of earlier hamstring and groin injuries and a viral infection, he played little part as Blackburn secured their first championship in 81 years.

Only time will tell if Slater remains in Kenny Dalglish's plans as he plots Rovers' Champions Cup adventure. Coventry City have already had one offer for him turned down and several other clubs are believed to be interested in acquiring his services.

Irrespective of which club Slater is attached to at the time, there is little doubt that Australia will be eager to harness his experience and skill when the 1998 World Cup qualifiers begin.

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS shattered their Grand Final 'hoodoo' when they defeated title holders and favourites Adelaide City 2-0 to record a first Australian National League Championship success.

Defeated three times at the same stage in the last four seasons, having twice lost to City in the previous month and playing on their opponents' home ground, the Knights were certainly the underdogs.

A superbly struck long range volley by their captain Andrew Marth in the 35th minute and a sidefooted goal from Joe Spiteri seven minutes later gave the Knights victory.

Mark Viduka, the Knights' remarkable 19-year-old striker retained his Players' Player of the Year, Under-21 Player of the Year and leading scorer (with 21 goals) titles.

However, it is unlikely that Viduka will be in Australia attempting a hat-trick of hat-tricks next season. Several European clubs are reported to be seeking his services, with Borussia Dortmund the most likely to succeed.

FIJI

FIVE Labasa players, discovered to have accepted financial inducements to help Suva win this season's FACT (FA Cup Tournament) title, were merely fined £115 each following a behind-closed-doors inquiry.

The leniency of the punishment was, the Fiji Football Association explained, due to "an amnesty commemorating the FFA's move to new offices"!

The bribery revelations took all the gloss off Suva's first major honour since 1988. The capital city side had defeated an all too obviously placid Labasa 4-0.

NEW ZEALAND

IN THE Winfield Superclub Championship, North Zone Mount Wellington remain on course for a place in the Championship's next phase.

They were equal on points with holders North Shore United and last year's Chatham Cup winners Waitakere City, as the championship's regional groups approach the halfway point.

Napier City Rovers, Miramar Rangers and Wellington Olympic, the Central Zone's representatives in the 1994 National Round, lead the way again this year.

In the South Zone, Roslyn-Wakari have had little difficulty in maintaining consistency. With seven wins from seven games, they are the country's only undefeated team.

PAUL MOON

BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters . . .

THIS is your chance to join the debates on soccer's big issues. Send your views to Trevor Brooking, the TV analyst and former England and West Ham player, and he will reply to a selection each month.

● Write to Trevor Brooking c/o *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. The comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER*'s views. He will only answer those letters published.

SEMI-FINAL SORROW

TREVOR – I believe Crystal Palace paid the wrong respect to the fan who died before the FA Cup semi-final and it cost them a place at Wembley. They should have told their fans to buy all tickets, avoid trouble and pubs and get the team to Wembley. With only 4,000 fans there was hardly any vocal support.
M DOWARD, Llanelli, Dyfed

THE FA Cup-semi-final replay was a very subdued match throughout, and there is no doubt the lack of support for Palace within the ground could hardly have helped their side. The fact only 4,000 made the effort was largely due to an appeal from the club itself for fans not to travel following the tragedy. I believe this was the wrong approach to take. Another factor, I'm sure, was the cost and distance involved for supporters to travel from South London, all the way up to Villa Park in the Midlands, for a second time in less than a week.

NO TIME FOR TIME-OUTS

TREVOR – After reading Brian Glanville's 'Last Word' of *WORLD SOCCER*'s May 1995 issue, I couldn't agree with him more. Where is the need for more rule changes by FIFA? Time-outs, as any American sports fan will attest, only increase the length of games and serve no useful purpose except to allow the television viewer to break for the toilet.
SHADIS MURTUZA, Pennsylvania, USA

I THINK we all agree there is no need for any further rule changes by FIFA at present. I find time-outs totally frustrating whenever I watch American sport, although I suppose they can be justified indoors, where something like basketball is concerned. I reckon any footballer will tell you that the half-time interval is more than enough break for any tactical changes to be discussed, or fitness doubts to be sorted out. Any further delays would completely disrupt the flow and style of a match, as players tend to lose their touch and rhythm when too many stoppages occur.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

TREVOR – I think Sheffield Wednesday's Trevor Francis was desperately unlucky to become the 13th Premiership management casualty, although if changes have to be made the close season is a better time to make them rather than wielding the axe after only a small number of games.
JOHN SEXTON, Birmingham

I MUST say I also found the turnover of Premiership managers (Endsleigh League ones too), quite disgraceful this season, with only Wimbledon, Chelsea and Southampton resisting change from those clubs who finished outside the top six. Of those 13 teams where the axe fell, there were many examples where the new management made little improvement. Joe Royle at Everton was certainly an exception and Spurs (Gerry Francis) and QPR (Ray Wilkins) also progressed significantly. At Sheffield Wednesday Trevor Francis was unlucky with injuries and the continual absence of striker David Hirst restricted scoring potential. I like your idea of no managerial changes during a season but perhaps just one week could be set aside at the start of the New Year.

HAIR RAISER

TREVOR – Argentina's manager Daniel Passarella said recently he would not be picking players with long hair for the national team. I don't care what they look like, it's how they perform on the pitch that counts.
DANNY RUMPLING, Essex

IF PAST selections from Argentina are any guide, then the new manager might be lucky to field a five-a-side team! In this day and age I don't think it matters at all what a player looks like, as long as he produces the goods on the pitch. We have seen a variety of hairstyles in football, although in recent months it has become trendy to have a lack of hair! Paul Gascoigne, Stan Collymore and David James have been well and truly 'scalped.' With the days of ponytails dwindling. I will watch Argentina's progress with interest but cannot see this idea of Passarella's being enforced too strictly.

SUMMER MADNESS

TREVOR – After the so-called season of sleaze in England it looks like the wealthier Premiership clubs are about to embark on a summer of transfer madness. Everton say they are prepared to pay up to £8.5million for Stan Collymore – a ridiculous sum! Things are getting totally out of control and the bubble surely has to burst soon.
MARTIJN VAN GOBBEL, Dordrecht, Holland

THE £7million that Manchester United paid Newcastle for Andy Cole seemed exorbitant at the time but the scramble for quality English strikers continues to inflate the price. Newcastle, Liverpool, Aston Villa, Everton, Arsenal, Spurs and Chelsea were all anxious to strengthen their forward positions during the close season, with some of these willing to pay excessive fees in order to get the right man. I must agree the sums are becoming somewhat farcical but while the market reacts to this supply and demand situation, the upward trend will continue. Unfortunately, this naturally has an adverse reaction, with any promising youngster suddenly projected as some sort of world-beater. Bigger transfer fees lead to even greater wage demands and so your anxiety over whether the bubble is about to burst is understandable. Hopefully clubs can maintain strict financial control, so that expenditure stays within limits. Football must remain entertaining and be enjoyed by both players and supporters. If money becomes an even more dominating factor then we will all be in trouble!

GASCOIGNE GAMBLE

TREVOR – There's a been lot of speculation regarding Paul Gascoigne's move from Lazio to Rangers. I think Rangers (and the backwaters of Scottish football) will be a bad move for Gazza – he needs to be back playing among the cut and thrust of English football.
REX MARTINI, Borehamwood, Herts

THE most fascinating thing for me was the number of clubs who were still willing to gamble a huge amount of money on a player whose fitness remains clouded in doubt. No one can dispute Gazza's talent but it must be remembered he only managed some 44 matches during his three years with Lazio. That figure must surely be the minimum number of matches his new club would be anticipating in his first season. At 28, Gazza must start to reproduce the form expected of him. He must prove the doubters wrong and let his football earn the right headlines. England and Terry Venables hope to see him back to his best with Euro '96 less than 12 months away. I understand your concern that the domination enjoyed by Rangers may not provide him with a stiff enough test. But perhaps that may be to his advantage, as it would allow him to ease his way back to full fitness. A major plus would be the European Cup experience and football would be a winner if he succeeds.

UNITED STATES

Nine months to go . . .

THE professional league that was supposed to be the permanent legacy of the 1994 World Cup is at last beginning to take shape.

Originally, the league was going to be up and running before the World Cup began. When that proved impossible, it was going to start in the spring of 1995.

That didn't work either. Now we have a new, precise, starting date: March 31, 1996.

Major League Soccer will have 10 teams *(see box)* and will play a summer season lasting until the championship game on October 20.

Alan Rothenberg, Mr Everything of American soccer, the man who ran World Cup '94 and is also President of the United States Soccer Federation, heads MLS. "We now have commitments for some $75million to fund this league," said Rothenberg, "We have our cities and stadiums selected. And, most importantly, we are on our way to bringing in top quality American and international players."

The first of the international players was introduced to the media in New York: Jorge Campos, the flamboyant Mexican goalkeeper who can also double as a goal-scoring forward. His signing immediately underlined the unique structure of MLS, and its so-called 'single-entity concept'.

Under that concept, MLS itself – not the individual clubs – negotiates all player contracts. Thus a pool of MLS players is built up and these will then be distributed among the clubs by a draft system (commonly used in other American sports to ensure equal distribution of college talent).

Campos – and, presumably, any other top stars signed – is an exception. He was signed by MLS, but he will be allocated directly to the Los Angeles club where he can be of most use in attracting the large number of Mexican fans in that area.

Ethnic considerations remain a large factor in the USA. There is talk of signing an Irish player – Ronnie Whelan's name has surfaced – for the Boston franchise. But the main criterion for adding a foreign star to the MLS will be skill. Creative, attacking players are wanted, players like Romario and Valderrama.

The number of international stars will be small. The idea is to make this, as far as possible, an American league. Something that is proving difficult. The quota for foreigners on each team has crept up from three to four, and it may even be five. On a technicality, it may be higher, because foreign-born players who are permanent residents in the USA will have to be treated as American citizens.

"While we may not be up to the standard of the Italian Serie A or the Premiership or the Bundesliga, we'll be a credible Division 1 league," says Rothenberg.

Another reason for the modest sprinkling of international stars is that the MLS is clearly not going to be a league that throws money around. The single-entity structure restricts each club to a player salary budget of a mere $1.3million per season. For all 18 players!

There will be help from sponsors (the MLS coyly admits that "Nike helped us to bring Campos here"), but that can apply to only a very few players. The average salary for an MLS player will certainly be under $100,000. Before tax.

A beer company, Budweiser, is the first league-wide sponsor. One wonders what two of the newest investors in the league – from Boston and Denver – will make of that. Both having publicly expressed their faith in the future of soccer as a great family and youth sport.

For the moment, the MLS exists as a league with 10 cities – but with no club names. No coaches. Two general managers, and a handful of players.

Plus some ideas that the game needs livening up for American audiences. And we all know what that means.

PAUL GARDNER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER-MLS

Western Conference

Dallas	Denver
Kansas City	Los Angeles
San Jose	

Eastern Conference

Boston	Columbus
New Jersey/New York	
Tampa Bay	Washington DC*

*The clubs in Dallas, Tampa and San Jose will be operated by the MLS. The other seven will be run by individual owners.

MEXICO

THIS season's play-offs are proving to be the most successful ever.

An average of 75,000 people have attended each match, and the semi-finals, to be played in the Azteca stadium and the Jalisco stadium, are sell-outs (120,000 and 70,000 respectively).

The play-off system to find the League champions was started in 1971. Only in seven cases has the team that finished the regular season with most points won the 'liguilla'.

This year the situation may repeat itself. Guadalajara finished the season with 52 from a possible 72 points, but had trouble eliminating Santos Laguna in the quarter-finals.

America and Necaxa had little trouble moving on to semi-finals. Mirko Jozic's team eliminated Puebla (4-2 on aggregate) and Necaxa disposed of the current champions Tecos Uag (4-1 on aggregate).

Necaxa now face Guadalajara while America play Cruz Azul.

The Mexican national team have started their preparation for the Copa America. Hugo Sanchez created quite a scandal in the media by accusing his old friend Miguel Mejia Baron of being a coward, referring to the national team manager's lack of decision in the US '94 match against Bulgaria. Hugo will play in neither the US Cup nor Copa America.

Mexico will have to play friendly matches in Mexican stadia since the 'gold mine' of the California stadia became prohibitive when Alan Rothenberg announced that matches on USA soil would be taxed with 35% of box office receipts going to the USSL.

In spite of all the recent economic problems, Mexican soccer is closing the 1994-95 season in good shape. Clubs received many dollars from the World Cup and the Intercontinental Cup in Saudi Arabia. Competition was tight down to the end, and many new Mexican players appeared on the scene, making us optimistic for the future.

CARLOS RAMIREZ

HONDURAS

OLIMPIA, as expected, captured the first-phase championship by nine points over runners-up Motagua.

The top six teams qualify for the play-offs and the pairing are as follows: Olimpia-Marathon, Motagua-Victoria and Real Espana-Real Maya. The three winners then face each other twice, with the top team playing Olimpia (assuming they don't finish first) for the championship.

GUATEMALA

COMUNICACIONES are the kings of Guatemalan football after capturing the First Division title and Champion of Champions Cup to end a solid season.

The 'Cremas' avoided a risky play-off by winning both phases of the championship. In the final round the Hexagonal Group finished ahead of runners-up Aurora by a healthy five-point margin.

EL SALVADOR

LUIS ANGEL FIRPO won the first-stage championship, edging out FAS by two points.

The Usulutan-based club lost only twice, while scoring a record 74 goals. They were led by Raul Diaz Arce (21 goals) and Panamanian-international Percibal Piggott (18 goals), first and second in the League scoring chart.

SCOTT GLEBA

Searching for the right Carlos

THE hectic, almost chaotic, search for a new national team coach goes merrily on.

In mid-May it looked as though Portugal's Carlos Queiroz was on his way. He had shown great interest, had visited the USA – and had then quit his job as coach of Sporting Lisbon.

Hank Steinbrecher, the general secretary of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) was openly, and unwisely, talking of it as a done deal – when the roof fell in. Queiroz was subjected to an emergency all-night meeting with the Sporting directors. They convinced him to stay.

This was doubly embarrassing for the USSF, as they had already fired their coach, Bora Milutinovic.

Into the breach stepped Steve Sampson, one of Bora's assistants, whose only coaching credential is a shared Division 1 title in American college soccer. Sampson has now coached the national team twice: a 1-0 loss to Belgium, and a highly embarrassing 2-1 defeat to a sub-strength Costa Rica.

Now the USSF is interested in Carlos Alberto Parreira, recently fired by Valencia. But do they have the money to hire him?

Although all parties insist that the breakdown in the Queiroz negotiations had "nothing to do with money", that is a bit hard to swallow.

In Portugal, Queiroz could earn an estimated $800,000 with Sporting. The USSF offered him a reported $300,000, which was unlikely to tempt Parreira.

The figure will have to be substantially increased. At a time when the USSF – despite all that windfall of money from the World Cup – is reportedly some $2million in the red.

PAUL GARDNER

MLS man . . . Mexican keeper Jorge Campos

FOOTBALL COACHES AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

AFCAT CONVENTION CALLING!

JOHN CARTWRIGHT, Keith Blunt, Paul Power and Andy Gray – just four of the top coaches and former players who will be at this year's AFCAT Convention on June 22.

They will be joined by other leading coaches from around the world when they gather at Milton Keynes for another special AFCAT event.

AFCAT will also welcome Michelle Akers, a star of the Women's World Championship in Sweden and one of the finest female players in the world.

It is hoped that Don Howe will talk about his recent visit to Amsterdam, where he watched coaching at Ajax along with Steve Coppell and Dave Richardson.

Don was very impressed with the whole set-up at Ajax and feels we have a great deal to learn from the Dutch.

"The club looks after players aged from eight to 18 years," says Don.

"Having assessed players at each age group, 16 are selected at each level and there are no additions to this during the season to exceed 16. Three times during the season each player takes a number of physical and skill tests to measure his progress and this information is stored in the Club's database.

"When the player is taken on by the Club, a meeting is held with the parents to explain what they are letting themselves in for:-

(a) At eight-14 the players train three to four times a week, play on Saturday and are expected to watch the first team play at home each game, eg five trips to the ground each week minimum and it increases as they get older.

(b) During training parents are allowed to attend but they are not allowed to shout advice.

"The club employs specialist goalkeeper, aerobic, athletic and dietician personnel to help the coaches who report only to the director of youth football. He himself reports direct to one of the board and not the first team coach and is contracted until he is 65. What a refreshing change.

"The Club employ *NINE* part-time teachers who help the players with their homework, as they are there after schools finish in the afternoon. If they do poorly at school, then they have to miss training, an incentive to work at both ends of their education.

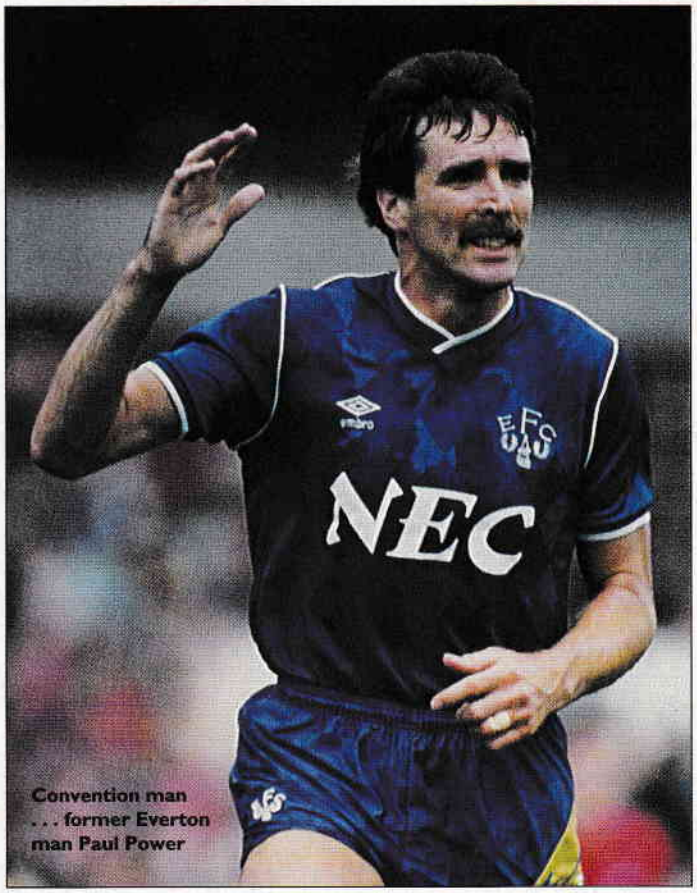
"At the age of 15 training becomes more concentrated and instead of finishing school at the same time as the others, they are collected by one of the fleet of 20 buses that Ajax run, ie 1.30-2.00pm and spend the afternoon at the Club studying, training and eating etc.

"Small-sided games – four against four, seven against seven – are encouraged at all levels.

"A final comment to be made is that at age eight, the players will have almost five hours of training to one 60-minute match, at age 18 they will have nine hours of training to one match. A very interesting comparison to our own training programmes."

Now back to Convention news. Coaches will be arriving from Australia, Europe, South Africa, Canada and the United States, so let's give them all a great welcome and ensure we all enjoy a great event. With members now in 35 different countries around the world, our football brotherhood is expanding and growing.

If you want to know more about the Convention and AFCAT, please contact: Rob Littleford, Penmore House, Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 0SJ.



Convention man . . . former Everton man Paul Power

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Diary

MONDAY, MAY 1

HOLLAND: Ronald Koeman says he has agreed a two-year contract with Feyenoord after quitting Barcelona this summer.
ITALY: Juventus' honorary president Umberto Agnelli says Roberto Baggio may have to reduce his pay demands if he is to stay with the club. It had been thought club and player had agreed details of a new contract. Baggio is on £1.2million a year . . . Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti says that coach Zdenek Zeman will decide whether Paul Gascoigne has a future with the club or whether he should be sold back to England.
SCOTLAND: Rangers' Danish international Brian Laudrup becomes the first overseas player to win the Scottish Football Writers' Player of the Year award.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

GERMANY: Bayern Munich are penalised two League points by the DFB for fielding an ineligible player (amateur Dieter Hamann) in the 5-2 win over Eintracht Frankfurt on April 15. Hamann took Bayern's amateur contract contingent of players to four, one over the limit.
GREECE: Cup Final referee Philippos Bakas is ambushed and beaten up by a group of AEK hooligans seeking revenge for his decisions in the 1-0 extra-time defeat by Panathinaikos.
PORTUGAL: Benfica's Argentinian striker Claudio Caniggia is revealed to have needed stitches in his face after being attacked by a group of youths after the 2-1 defeat by Sporting in which he was sent off. Caniggia's fellow striker Joao Vieira Pinto, injured during the weekend Lisbon derby, needs knee surgery on torn ligaments and will be out of action for several months.
ROMANIA: Ilie Trifina, an official of Second Division Dacia Unirea Braila, is arrested after offering a £7,000 bribe to two players from promotion rivals Lynx Iasi.
SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa name seven European-based players in their squad to face Argentina on May 13.
SWEDEN: National coach Tommy Svensson is offered the manager's job at Athletic Bilbao.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

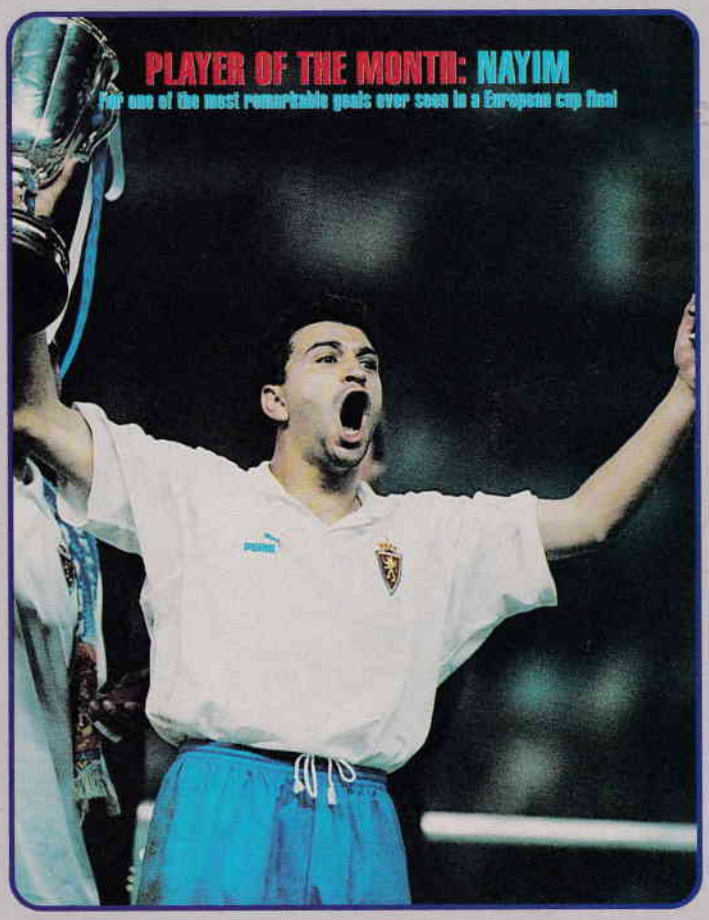
ACTION: Parma beat injury-weakened Juventus 1-0 in the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final.
ENGLAND: Argentina are revealed as England's first opponents at Wembley next season, on September 6. England play in Norway on October 11 and are home to Switzerland in November . . . Tottenham are cleared of suspicions of involvement in an improper payments arrangements over the capture of Ilie Dumitrescu last year from Steaua Bucharest.
GERMANY: Champions Bayern Munich give notice of appeal against the two-point penalty inflicted for fielding an ineligible player.
GREECE: The referees federation decides to boycott weekend matches in protest against the attack on Cup Final official Philipos Bakas.
ITALY: Dejan Savicevic extends his contract with Milan for another two years . . . Inter agree the end-of-season sale of Dutch midfielder Wim Jonk to PSV Eindhoven but extend the contract of team manager Ottavio Bianchi.
JAPAN: Koji Noguchi scores a J.League record five goals, all in the second half, as Bellmare Hiratsuka thrash Kashima Antlers 7-0, ending Kashima's run of eight successive wins.
RUSSIA: Oleg Romantsev omits all his foreign-based players for the European Championship qualifier against the Faroe Islands. Moscow Spartak provide 10 members of the squad.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

BRAZIL: Palmeiras striker Edmundo, just reprieved from a 40-day-plus-five-match ban imposed by the CBF, is suspended for 15 days by his club for critising directors over the length of the grass at the Parque Antartica for the 3-0 win over Bolivian champions Bolivar in the Libertadores Cup.
COLOMBIA: Tulua are penalised three championship points as punishment for president Carlos Martan's outspoken attack on a referee after a 1-1 draw with Deportivo Cali.
ECUADOR: Emelec and Sporting Cristal, respective champions of Ecuador and Peru, who were involved in a border conflict which caused dozens of deaths earlier this year, discuss playing their Libertadores Cup quarter-final at neutral venues, perhaps New York.
ENGLAND: Jamie Hughes, 17, of First Division Tranmere is charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute after testing positive for amphetamine. Tranmere officials say Hughes claimed a drink had been "spiked."
GREECE: The Greek federation bows to the proposed referees' strike and reschedules the weekend's matches for the next Wednesday.
ITALY: Juventus agree a shirt sponsorship deal with Japanese electronic conglomerate Sony Corporation. The two-year deal is worth £4.5million . . . Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi says foreign transfer raids – such as Milan's proposed purchase of Paris SG's George Weah – may be restricted because of the weakness of the lira . . . magnetic identity cards are among police proposals to reduce stadium violence.

MONDAY, MAY 8

ACTION: Malaysia draw 1-1 with visiting Flamengo of Brazil.
BOLIVIA: National coach Antonio Lopez is sacked after just six weeks and one game in charge, a 0-0 draw with Venezuela.
ENGLAND: Tottenham manager Gerry Francis says he has not given up hope that Jurgen Klinsmann will decide to stay in England another year but says he is resigned to losing Romanian Gica Popescu, who has failed to adapt to English football.
ITALY: Juventus president Umberto Agnelli repeats his veiled threat to transfer-list Roberto Baggio if they fail to reach agreement on a new contract. Juve want Baggio to accept an annual salary of around £900,000, a pay cut of around £300,000.
PORTUGAL: Civil authorities launch an investigation into the accident at Sporting Lisbon's stadium which left one fan dead and 25 injured, three in comas, on Sunday night.
SCOTLAND: Celtic bid for Anderlecht's Belgian World Cup forward Marc Degryse as Rangers learn of work permit problems facing Alexei Mikhailichenko.
SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil is suspended from his club's stadium for eight months for insulting a match official and hitting out at Spanish refereeing authorities. Gil has 10 days in which to appeal. He had described Atletico's November defeat by neighbours Real as barefaced robbery – among other things.



TUESDAY, MAY 9

BELGIUM: League leaders Anderlecht appoint Herbert Neumann as coach for next season. Neumann, boss of Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem for the past three seasons, will take over from Johan Boskamp, who may move to a supervisory role.
CHINA: Officials of the two-year-old Marlboro-sponsored national professional League seek a compromise which will rescue their crucial television deal following the introduction, from February 1, of a law banning cigarette publicity at sports events.
GERMANY: Stuttgart appoint Austrian coach Rolf Fringer, who led Aarau to the 1993 Swiss League title, as new trainer from next season. He replaces caretaker Jurgen Sundermann, who stepped in after the departure of Jurgen Rober in April.
LEBANON: Ex-Wales manager Terry Yorath finally agrees an 18-month contract to coach the Lebanon national side, with next year's Pan-Arab Games in Beirut and Asian Cup as priorities.
PORTUGAL: A second fan dies, following the Alvalade stadium accident, having been in a coma throughout the two days. A radio station reports that a preliminary inquiry is blaming supervisory police officers for permitting too many fans onto the balcony which collapsed . . . Luis Figo scores twice as Sporting reach the Cup Final with a 3-0 semi-final win over Setubal.
SPAIN: Real Sociedad's Bosnian striker Meho Kodro agrees to sign for Barcelona at the season's end for £4million.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

ACTION: Zaragoza beat Arsenal 2-1 after extra time in the Cup-winners Cup Final in Paris . . . Armenia and Macedonia draw 2-2 in a European Championship qualifier.
COLOMBIA: Goalkeeper Rene Higuita scores with a free-kick from just outside the penalty area in Atletico Nacional's 3-1 win over Pereira in the national championship.
ENGLAND: Everton striker Duncan Ferguson is cleared to play in the FA Cup Final but that could be his last match until the beginning of November, because of a 12-match Scottish ban confirmed after he is found guilty at a Glasgow Sheriff's Court of assaulting Raith Rovers defender John McStay while playing for Rangers in April 1994 . . . Manchester United beat Southampton 2-1 to keep the title race alive.
MEXICO: Veteran striker Hugo Sanchez criticises Miguel Mejia Baron after the national coach says he does not intend selecting Sanchez again for Mexico.
YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star beat Obilic of Belgrade 4-0 in the first leg of the Yugoslav Cup Final.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

ENGLAND: Jurgen Klinsmann announces his decision to leave Tottenham at the end of the season and sign a three-year contract with Bayern Munich. Klinsmann, reputed to earn £20,000 a week, recently received police protection after death threats but says this had no influence on his decision.
ARGENTINA: Racing Club, en route to Brazil for an international club match, describe departed Diego Maradona as "the ideal coach."
GREECE: Soccer and basketball club owners meet to discuss ways of curbing fan violence.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

FRANCE: League leaders Nantes are handed the title as rivals Lyon lose 2-1 at Metz.
ITALY: Milan gain extra time to prepare for the Champions Cup Final as the Italian League agrees to bring forward their May 20 Serie A game at Napoli to May 18.
SPAIN: Emilio Butragueno confirms he will leave Real Madrid at the end of the season – probably for Japan – after more than a decade at the club.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, in his monthly newsletter editorial, criticises referees for being too cautious and inconsistent in awarding penalties, especially during big games. FIFA also names five people declared "persona non grata in football" for their alleged role in a match-rigging scam during the World Youth Cup.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

ACTION: South Africa and Argentina draw 1-1 in Johannesburg . . . Paris Saint-Germain beat Strasbourg 1-0 in the French Cup Final . . . Dundee United are relegated from the Scottish Premier Division for the first time since 1960 after losing 1-0 at home to Celtic. Aberdeen, 2-0 winners at Falkirk, must play-off against the First Division runners-up.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

ACTION: Santos midfielder Marcelo Passos scores a hat-trick in seven minutes as his team beat crisis-torn Palmeiras 3-1 in the Sao Paulo championship . . . Blackburn Rovers win the English Premier League title despite losing their last game 2-1 at Liverpool. Manchester United miss the chance to retain the title when they only draw 1-1 at West Ham . . . Ajax Amsterdam overpower Volendam 4-1 to win the Dutch championship for the 25th time . . . Spanish leaders Real Madrid lose 3-2 at Oviedo, allowing Deportivo La Coruna to reduce their advantage at the top to six points.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he is considering an offer from Pele to play for Santos of Brazil after his 15-month drugs ban has expired.
FRANCE: Eric Cantona, banned from competitive football until September 30, plays in a charity match near Paris.

MONDAY, MAY 15

BRAZIL: A spokesman for Pele, Sports Minister and Santos director, says it may take two weeks to conclude negotiations for the transfer to the Brazilian club of Diego Maradona. Pele says: "We were talking with Diego when I received a phone call from (Argentina) President Carlos Menem, who expressed his support for the transfer. He thinks if Maradona manages to rescue his image it would be good for the whole of Argentina. "
ENGLAND: Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish pays tribute to his title-winning team as UEFA confirm that the club will have to compete in the preliminary round of the Champions League.
FRANCE: Former Marseille president Bernard Tapie is sentenced in Valenciennes to two years in prison with one suspended, for match-fixing. Ex-Marseille general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes receives a two-year suspended sentence and £2,000 fine; ex-Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie, who delivered the cash, receives a one-year suspended sentence and £1,300 fine; ex-Valenciennes players Jorge Burruchaga and Christophe Robert, who accepted the bribes, receive six-month suspended sentences and £700 fines; Robert's wife, Marie-Christine, receives a three-month suspended sentence as an accomplice.
GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt agree to buy Sweden's Johnny Ekstrom from Dynamo Dresden for 700,000.
ITALY: Milan sign Paris Saint-Germain striker George Weah for £5million. The Liberian agrees a two-year contract worth £1.6million.
MALAYSIA: The Asian confederation decides to set up a security committee to combat bribery and match-fixing in south-east Asia.
PORTUGAL: Carlos Queiros rejects an offer to coach the US national team and agrees to a new three-year contract with Sporting Lisbon.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

BRAZIL: Star players, led by World Cup-winners Romario and Branco, threaten to strike over alleging false accounting of attendances and receipts at Rio de Janeiro championship games. Palmeiras dismiss coach Valdir Espinosa after a poor run.
DENMARK: Former World Cup striker Preben Elkjaer-Larsen takes over as coach of second-placed Silkeborg.
ENGLAND: Brian Horton becomes the 12th Premier League managerial casualty of the season when he is dismissed by Manchester City . . . Premier League chief executive Rick Parry, in his end-of-season report, says unacceptable standards of personal behaviour had damaged the game's integrity.
GERMANY: Jurgen Klinsmann returns to Bavaria to sign his three-year contract with Bayern Munich. The contract, from July 1, is believed to be worth £1.2million a year, the same as Lothar Matthaus.
SCOTLAND: Rangers chairman David Murray insists fans are backing his controversial sponsor-a-signing scheme. Fans are being asked to pay £399 to guarantee buying their season ticket for the next 25 years . . . veteran goalkeeper Jim Leighton is appointed Scotland captain for their two-match Kirin Cup trip to Japan.
SWITZERLAND: Brazil maintain their lead in the latest world rankings issued by FIFA. Italy move up from fourth to second with Spain slipping from second to third.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

ACTION: Brazil beat Israel 2-1 in Tel-Aviv . . . Parma win the UEFA Cup, holding Juventus 1-1 in Milan and winning 2-1 on aggregate.
CHINA: Goalkeeper David Seaman is ruled out for two months – including England's Umbro Cup tournament – after breaking his right ankle during Arsenal's 2-1 defeat by Guo An on a tour to China.
COLOMBIA: Goalkeeper Rene Higuita is named in Colombia's 20-man squad for the US Cup.
ENGLAND: Relegated Ipswich release Bulgarian World Cup forward Boncho Guenchev . . . Newcastle United complain that Paris Saint-Germain used their interest in George Weah to force Milan into paying a higher price for the Liberian striker.
ITALY: Marco Van Basten follows up a check on his long-damaged ankle by saying he intends to call a press conference later in the week – sparking speculation that he will announce his retirement.
RUSSIA: Champions Spartak Moscow continue their poor start to the season when they lose 1-0 to Dynamo Moscow in the cup semi-finals.
SINGAPORE: The trial on match-fixing charges of former top Singapore player Abbas Saad opens with a bookmaker testifying he gave £120,000 to another player, Czech Michal Vana, who claimed he split the money with Abbas, who helped fix some of last year's Malaysian League matches.
YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star win the cup after drawing 0-0 with Obilic Belgrade in the second leg of the final. Red Star win 4-0 on aggregate.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

AUSTRIA: Egon Coordes, German-born coach of FK Austria Vienna, will leave the club at the end of the season.
BELGIUM: Antwerp striker Kurt Vangompel, an Under-21 international, is killed in a car crash.
ENGLAND: Manchester United's FA Cup Final preparations are disrupted by the insistence of winger Andrei Kanchelskis that he does not want to play for manager Alex Ferguson and wants a transfer.
FRANCE: The federation suspends PSG and national team goalkeeper Bernard Lama for one game for kicking a Rennes player, Patrice Carteron, on May 6. The FFF also orders all top division clubs to install crowd video surveillance systems by the start of the 1997-98 season.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich claim a Bundesliga attendance record by having averaged 54,176 fans for each of their 15 home League games – their last two home games already being sell-outs.
ITALY: Paul Gascoigne fails to turn up for a Lazio practice match amid speculation of a clash between player and club over the financial terms of his severance midway through a four-year contract.
SINGAPORE: Police arrested Mizan Ulot, 20, Singapore's Olympic reserve goalkeeper, for allegedly fixing two matches in Singapore.
SPAIN: Emilio Butragueno confirms he will leave Real Madrid. He says: "Watching from the stand each week has been very sad. But leaving this club will be like leaving a part of my life behind."

FRIDAY, MAY 19

BULGARIA: The federation threatens to switch the European qualifier against Germany on June 7 to Greece or Romania after the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport demand 30 per cent of match receipts.
ENGLAND: All eligible teams in the Premiership's top 10 decline the opportunity of entering the UEFA-Intertoto Cup . . . Second Division champions Birmingham reject a Sporting Lisbon bid for winger Jose Dominguez.
FRANCE: Nantes draw 2-2 at Bastia to secure the League title . . . a Marseille financial court postpones for a week a decision on bids by the two rival groups to take over the former European champions, who had been placed in receivership a month earlier with debts estimated at £40million . . . the French League agrees to reduce the number of top division teams from 20 to 18 from the 1997-1998 season both to ease the World Cup preparations burden and protect the existence of its own newly-launched League Cup.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich have second thoughts about recalling almost-fit Lothar Matthaus for the weekend home match against Karlsruhe.
ITALY: Lazio coach Zdenek Zemen drops Paul Gascoigne from Sunday's game against Sampdoria as punishment for missing a mid-week friendly.
SINGAPORE: A district court sentences Mizan Ulot, 20, one of Singapore's top young goalkeepers and a star of Changi United, to eight months' jail on charges of fixing two matches last year.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

ACTION: Masakiyo Maezoro scores a hat-trick as Japan beat Malaysia 6-0 in an Olympic qualifier . . . Everton beat Manchester United 1-0 in the FA Cup Final . . . Anderlecht win a three-way race on the final day of the Belgian season to win the League title for a third successive year . . . Jeunesse Esch win the Luxembourg League title on goal difference from Grevenmacher.
FRANCE: Former Red Star Belgrade player Slavo Muslin says he has been appointed coach to Bordeaux next season. Muslin, in charge of third division Pau, will replace caretaker boss Eric Guerit.
GREECE: Three fans and a policeman were injured in clashes before a Third Division game between Ethnikos Asteras and Panelevsiniakos. Riot police are called in as scores of youths throw fire bombs and rocks at cars, shops and homes in the Athens suburb of Kesariani before the match.
ITALY: Marco Van Basten, despite two years out with ankle trouble, says he still hopes to play again. Van Basten adds: "I'm confident, if not optimistic." Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani says Van Basten's contract is being renewed for another season . . . Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti confirms that not only Paul Gascoigne but also Aron Winter is up for sale.
SOUTH AFRICA: The start of the match between Moroka Swallows and QwaQwa Stars in Soweto is delayed for 10 minutes after the visitors accuse their hosts of using magical powers against them. Stars claim a Swallows official splashed magical water on them before the start of the game and had threatened them with a knobkerrie, a traditional African fighting stick. Stars' players demand that referee Davis Rasebopye delay the kick-off to allow their shirts to dry. The result is a 1-1 draw.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

ACTION: Japan and Scotland draw 0-0 in the first match of the Kirin Cup in Hiroshima . . . Orlando Pirates of South Africa beat Nigeria's BCC Lions 1-0 and 2-1 on aggregate in the African Champions Cup second round . . . Juventus win their first Italian League title since 1986 when they thrash second-placed Parma 4-0.

MONDAY, MAY 22

BRAZIL: Brazil include seven World Cup-winners in their squad for the Umbro Cup in England – Jorginho, Cafu, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Dunga, Zinho and Bebeto. Squad: Zetti, Dida; Jorginho, Cafu, Roberto Carlos, Rodrigo, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Andre Cruz, Ronaldao; Cesar Sampaio, Doriva, Dunga, Edilson, Zinho, Leonardo, Rivaldo, Juninho; Bebeto, Ronaldo, Edmundo, Giovanni.
GERMANY: Dynamo Dresden, Saarbrucken, Hertha Berlin and Nurnberg have their profes-

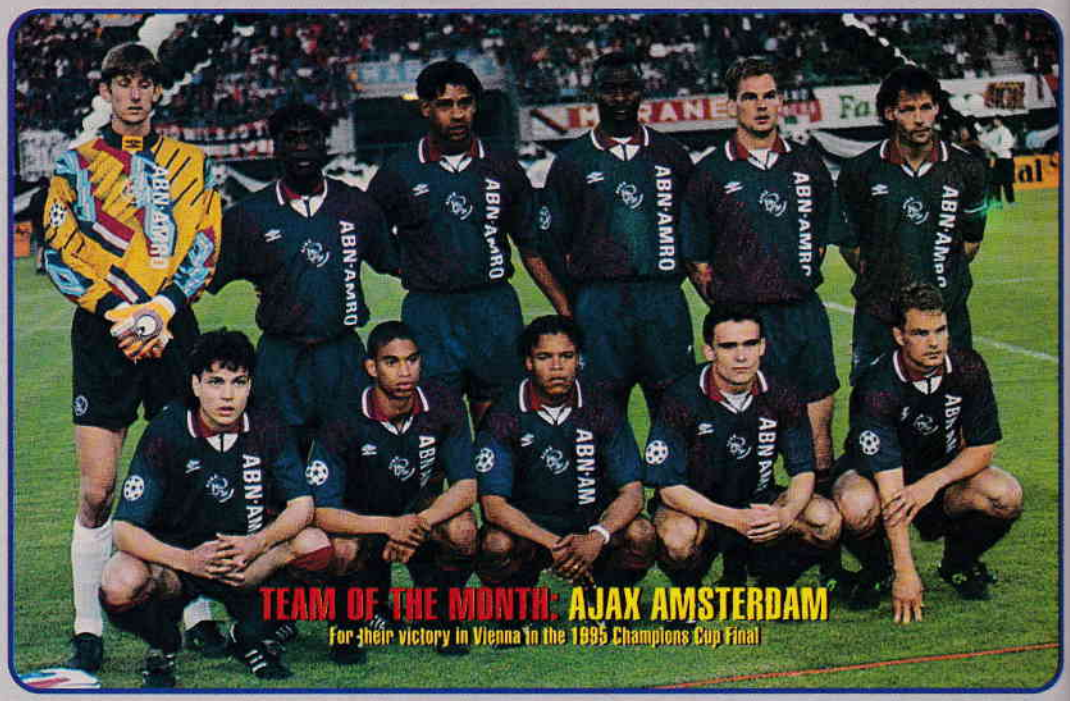
sional licences provisionally revoked as punishment for financial maladministration. Dresden, once the pride of East German football, are £4.5million in debt. Dresden police put units on alert to prevent violent protests by fans, 100 of whom beat up the club's vice-president and besieged president Raif-Juergen Otto two weeks ago after first reports of the impending punishment.

HONG KONG: A local court fines Arsenal's Ray Parlour £170 for hitting a cab driver after an all-night celebration of his team's 4-0 victory over local side Rangers on Saturday.

SPAIN: Barcelona complete the transfer of Romanian international Gica Popescu from Tottenham for £3.3million.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA consider widening the eligibility rules for the Intertoto Cup in an attempt to persuade English clubs to enter. Italy, Spain and Holland have already refused to take part.

TURKEY: Galatasaray appoint former Liverpool boss Graeme Souness as new coach on a one-year contract worth £500,000.



TUESDAY, MAY 23

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors president Antonio Alegre says they want Diego Maradona back as a player rather than see him leave Argentina for Brazil's Santos.

BRAZIL: Flamengo striker Romario must undergo surgery to repair damaged knee ligaments after falling awkwardly in a 2-1 win over Gremio. He will be out for six or seven weeks and miss the concluding stages of the Carioca championship . . . Flamengo's president Kleber Leite announces the shock purchase of tempestuous striker Edmundo from Palmeiras for £3.3million.

FRANCE: Bordeaux president Alain Afflelou declares war on a French League deal awarding Adidas exclusive rights to supply kit to all top division clubs next season. Bordeaux are contracted to Asics.

GERMANY: Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni says he will return to Italy to take over as team boss of Cagliari.

GREECE: The federation order AEK to play their next home match, against Ionikos, behind closed doors as punishments for the incidents in the Cup Final defeat by Panathinaikos. Five AEK players are also sanctioned for refusing to receive their losers' medals after the final.

ITALY: Fiorentina agree a new contract to keep Gabriel Batistuta to the year 2000 . . . Inter consider renewing their interest in Paul Ince following news of Manchester United's three-year spending freeze.

RUSSIA: CSKA demand that their League game against Dynamo Gazovik be replayed after TV evidence that striker Lebed had two 'goals' wrongly disallowed for offside.

SWITZERLAND: General secretary Sepp Blatter denies a report that he is on the point of quitting FIFA after falling out with president Joao Havelange during the World Youth Cup.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

ACTION: Ajax Amsterdam beat holders Milan 1-0 in the Champions Cup Final in Vienna with a second-half goal from 18-year-old substitute Kluivert. The match is watched worldwide by 500 million viewers via 192 television stations . . . Scotland beat Ecuador 2-1 in Toyama, Japan, in the Kirin Cup.

AUSTRIA: UEFA streamline the all-important coefficients rule – which means English and French champions Blackburn Rovers and Nantes will be seeded direct into the Champions League groups next season without having to play in the preliminary round.

EGYPT: Sudan's 2-0 African Nations victory over Algeria in April is overturned as a disciplinary measure by the CAF because the Sudan organisers failed to send air tickets in time for the officially-appointed Gabonese referee and linesmen. The match was delayed for 24 hours because of their non-appearance.

ENGLAND: Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince is acquitted at Croydon of assaulting a fan and threatening spectators in the fracas that followed Eric Cantona's kung-fu kick at Selhurst Park on January 25.

FRANCE: Mayor Robert Vigouroux, old opponent of Bernard Tapie, takes control of the former tycoon's Marseille club as head of a consortium aiming to rescue it from receivership thanks to the backing of regional and municipal authorities.

SCOTLAND: Rangers secure the £4.5million transfer of Paul Gascoigne from Lazio.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

ACTION: Norway beat Ghana 3-2 in Oslo . . . the Faroe Islands beat San Marino 3-0 in a European Championship qualifier.

HOLLAND: New European club champions Ajax are welcomed home at a city centre party by more than 150,000 fans . . . Feyenoord retain the cup, beating Volendam 2-1 in the final with goals from Taument and Obiku.

MALAYSIA: Tengku Abdullah Ahmad Shah, son of one of the nine Malaysian sultans who take turns being king, will head the new anti-bribes commission.

SCOTLAND: Everton striker Duncan Ferguson is released on bail pending appeal after being sentenced to three months in jail for butting Raith Rovers' John McStay during a Scottish Premier Division game last year.

SOUTH KOREA: South Korea, just named hosts for the 2002 Asian Games, want to bring them forward by a year to clear the decks for a possible staging of the 2002 World Cup finals.

SWEDEN: Halmstad beat AIK Solna 3-1 in the Swedish Cup Final.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

ACTION: Japan win 5-0 away to Thailand in an Olympic Asian zone qualifier.

AUSTRALIA: National coach Eddie Thomson denies taking money from the transfer of players to overseas clubs as he gives evidence to a parliamentary committee.

BRAZIL: Edmundo, nicknamed Animal and thus greeted by the Rio city mayor, two elephants, a tiger and a chimpanzee on his arrival at Flamengo, is told he may have to wait until August for his debut because of eligibility complications.

ENGLAND: Everton's David Unsworth replaces injured Tony Adams in the England squad for the Umbro Cup.

ITALY: Internazionale buy a second member of Argentina's national team – Sebastian Rambert joining from Independiente for £800,000 to follow defender Javier Zanetti of Banfield.

SCOTLAND: Chelsea striker John Spencer is dropped from Scotland's 20-man squad for the European qualifying tie in the Faroe Islands after being sent off in Japan.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA deny English newspaper reports that a failure to enter clubs for the less-than-popular UEFA-Intertoto Cup could threaten representation in the other mainstream competitions.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

ACTION: Tirana clinch the Albanian championship for the 15th time . . . Auxerre, Lens and Monaco qualify in France for the UEFA Cup while Saint-Etienne are rescued from relegation because Marseille – due for instant demotion through their bankruptcy – secure a promotion spot in the Second Division . . . Maccabi Tel Aviv secure the Israeli League title for the 17th time with a 1-0 win at Hapoel Beersheva . . . Celtic beat Airdrie 1-0 in the Scottish Cup Final to end a six-year trophy drought . . . Grasshoppers assure their 23rd Swiss championship win by beating Basle 1-0 . . . Trabzonspor beat Besiktas 2-0 in the President's Cup – the Turkish Supercup.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

ACTION: Canada lose 2-1 in Edmonton to Chile, who thus win the Canada Cup . . . Costa Rica beat the US 2-1 in Tampa, Florida . . . Japan beat Ecuador 3-0 to win the Kirin Cup on goal difference from Scotland . . . Taiwan lose 4-1 to Japan in the second game of the Asian Olympic qualifiers . . . Ghana beat Nigeria 3-1 to win the first African Youth Cup . . . Club Brugge beat Ekeren 3-1 in the Belgian Cup Final . . . Ajax round off their unbeaten Dutch League title-winnng season with a 3-1 home win over Twente in Frank Rijkaard's last game . . . Milan follow up their Viennese defeat by going down 1-0 at home to Bari. David Platt is sent off for the second time in two months in Sampdoria's 2-2 draw with Inter . . . Shakhtyor Donetsk beat Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 extra time draw in the Ukraine Cup Final.

BRAZIL: Furious Vasco da Gama fans vandalise the club's San Januario stadium in protest at the 4-2 defeat by Flamengo.

MONDAY, MAY 29

ARGENTINA: AFA president Julio Grondona says he doubts whether FIFA would accede to a suggestion by state President Carlos Menem to shorten Maradona's 15-month playing ban.

BRAZIL: Rio police say the bullet which killed a 32-year-old fan during Saturday's match at Maracana between Fluminense and Bangu may have been fired from outside the stadium. He was in the upper tier in one of the most expensive seating areas.

DENMARK: Captain Michael Laudrup is withdrawn from the friendly against Finland by Real Madrid because of their impending Spanish title showdown with La Coruna.

GERMANY: Jurgen Klinsmann says he will retire after the 1998 World Cup finals.

ITALY: Veteran striker Daniele Massaro of Milan is reported ready to move to Japan in August to join Shimizu S-Pulse on an £800,000-a-year contract.

PORTUGAL: Paulo Futre is recalled to the national squad for the European qualifier against Latvia after a 20-month absence.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

ACTION: Thailand beat Taiwan 7-0 in an Olympic qualifier thanks to four goals from Rungpatch Charoenwong.
BRAZIL: Negotiations for Diego Maradona's transfer to Santos are almost complete, says a spokesman for Pele Sports and Marketing.
ENGLAND: Probation officers confirm that Manchester United's Eric Cantona has completed 120 hours of community service.
FRANCE: Lyon police ban the sale to Nantes supporters of tickets for tomorrow's clash at the Gerland de Lyon stadium, the final day of the season, for security reasons.
GERMANY: Maurizio Gaudino, currently on loan from Eintracht Frankfurt to Manchester City, is charged in Mannheim with insurance fraud following his alleged involvement in a ring which sold cars and declared them stolen. Gaudino denies the charges.
HOLLAND: Guus Hiddink includes eight players from European champions Ajax Amsterdam for the European qualifier against Belarus in Minsk on June 7. There is also a surprise recall for Genoa forward John Van't Schip after an absence of almost three years. Squad: Van der Sar, Hesp; Reiziger, Blind, De Kock, Valckx; R De Boer, Seedorf, Davids, Numan, Jonk, Winter; Kluivert, Overmars, Bergkamp, Van't Schip.
ISRAEL: Maccabi Haifa beat Hapoel Haifa 2-0 in the Cup Final.
PORTUGAL: Ireland striker Niall Quinn concludes negotiations for his £2million transfer from Manchester City to Sporting Lisbon.
SWITZERLAND: Officials of the 1998 World Cup confirm dates of June 10 to July 12.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

ACTION: Finland lose 1-0 at home to Denmark in a friendly . . . Sweden beat Iceland 1-0 in a European under-21 qualifier.
ALBANIA: Teuta Durresi beat SK Tirana 4-3 on penalties after extra time in the Cup Final, reversing last season's result.
AUSTRIA: Andreas Herzog is dropped from the national team for insisting on playing for Werder Bremen in a crucial German League match the day before the European qualifier against the Irish Republic in Dublin.
BOLIVIA: Veteran international Carlos Borja says he intends to ignore a death threat, warning him not to play for the national team.
BRAZIL: Local fans are warned they face immediate arrest if they are caught carrying animals inside a stadium. The warning follows Sunday's Flamengo-Vasco da Gama match when dozens of Flamengo fans took animals to the stadium as a tribute to new signing Edmundo, nicknamed the animal.
BULGARIA: The national team are offered a total bonus of £700,000 to qualify for the 1998 European Championship finals.
ENGLAND: Chelsea land a major transfer coup, signing Ruud Gullit from Sampdoria . . . Sheffield Wednesday, Tottenham and Wimbledon make a U-turn and decide to compete, after all, in the Intertoto Cup.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA's executive ends two days of meetings with a string of decisions, including: sudden-death extra-time to be introduced at the 1998 World Cup finals; a special commission set up to investigate corruption; the 1998 finals will start on June 10 and end on July 12, with both matches in the new Saint-Denis stadium; the qualifying round draw will be held on December 12 at the Louvre in Paris; and Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina to be admitted as provisional members.

OBITUARIES

NOEL BROTHERSTON . . . former Northern Ireland and Blackburn midfielder, has died of heart trouble aged 38.
SLOBODAN COSIC . . . one of the founders of Red Star Belgrade, has died aged 75. Cosic was Red Star's general secretary 1945-1959 and 1966-1977. He was also chief administrator of the Yugoslav federation 1959 -1966.
TED DRAKE . . . one of England's greatest centre forwards, died aged 83. Arsenal paid £6,000 in 1934 to buy him from his home town club Southampton, who had signed Drake as a professional three years earlier and for whom he scored a hat-trick on his debut. Drake, who scored six goals in five games for England, helped Arsenal secure the title that season and the next, when he was top scorer with 42 goals. The following year season his goal won the Cup Final against Sheffield United. Seven goals from eight shots – the other struck a post – in Arsenal's 7-1 defeat of Aston Villa at Villa Park on December 14, 1935, is still a record for an away game. He totalled 139 goals in 184 matches for Arsenal before retiring in 1947 and entering management with Reading. Five years later he began the nine-year spell at Stamford Bridge which included Chelsea's only League championship, in 1955. He was briefly assistant to Vic Buckingham at Barcelona in 1969.
ANTON IZDKOVSKI . . . one of the 11 founders of Kiev Dynamo, has died aged 87. Izdovski was Kiev's goalkeeper in the 1930s and, after retiring aged 38 in 1945, became goalkeeper coach at the club. He also turned film star in a popular film, Goalkeeper.
STEFAN KOVACS . . . one-time France and Romania national team and Ajax coach, died aged 74. Kovacs emigrated to Belgium at 18 and joining Olympique Charleroi. After the war he returned to Romania. Both a football thinker and philosopher, Kovacs built his coaching reputation through spells with Zurich, Steaua and the Romanian national team before he was surprisingly appointed as successor to Barcelona-bound Rinus Michels by European champions Ajax Amsterdam in 1971. Under his leadership a fine team developed its so-called 'total football.' In 1973 Kovacs quit and was appointed national manager of France, returning to Romania in 1976.
ADOLFO PEDERNERA . . . centre forward in River Plate's 'Maquina' (machine) of the 1940s, still considered Argentina's best ever club side, and has died aged 76. For a time he was a team-mate of Alfredo Di Stefano with Colombia's Millonarios when both joined the newly-formed professional pirate league there. He went on to coach several clubs successfully and at the time of his death he was in charge of amateur football at River Plate.
GIUSEPPE PERUCHETTI . . . 1930s goalkeeping star in Italy, has died aged 86. Peruchetti played for Brescia, Ambrosiana-Inter and Juventus and twice for Italy.
BOBBY STOKES . . . scorer of the only goal when Southampton beat Manchester United in the 1976 FA Cup Final, has died aged 44. Stokes was found unconcious at his home in Portsmouth and died later from natural causes. He made more than 200 appearances for Southampton and later played for Portsmouth.

X-WORD

WIN. . . an exclusive WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt

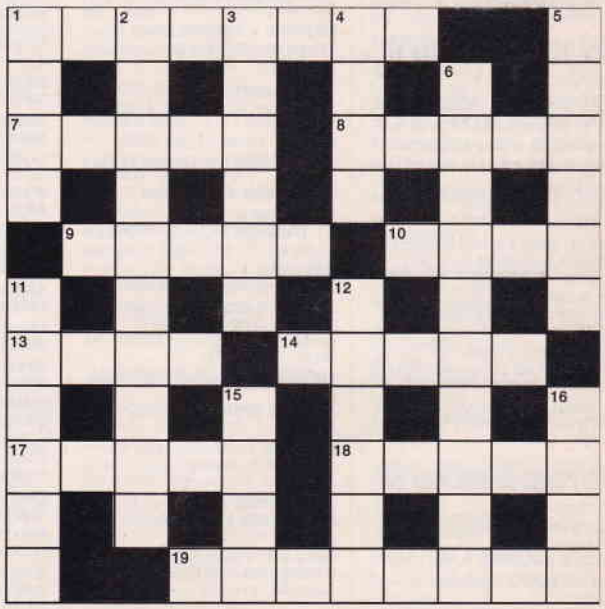
The first five correct entries will each win a WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt. Send completed entries by JULY 1, to: WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD (JULY) King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS:
Paul Ryan, Wirral, Merseyside, **Tony Trelfall,** Brunssum, Netherlands, **Derek McMonies,** Dumfries, Scotland, **H. Dam Nielsen,** Gudme, Denmark, **Michael Moore,** Wellington, New Zealand.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
Across: 7 Rossi, 8 India, 9 Hiddink, 10 Nep, 11 Embre, 13 Weah, 17 LKS, 18 Apostel, 20 Keane, 21 Conte
Down: 1 Brehme, 2 Asad, 3 Bilic, 4 Finke, 5 Odense, 6 Camp, 12 Bosman, 14 Helder, 15 Wales, 16 Rocco, 17 Loko, 19 Toni

CLUES ACROSS
1 ..... Club for which Romario left Barcelona (8)
7 ..... Prague's army club relegated from the top flight (5)
8 ..... Swedish midfielder in Italy with Napoli and Roma (5)
9 ..... Irish full-back currently serving Manchester United (5)
10 ..... FC Twente forward capped by Holland in '95 (4)
13 ..... Ukrainian city, home of Karpaty (4)
14 ..... Liverpool and England 'B' goalkeeper (5)
17 ..... Brazilian defender transferred from Sao Paulo to Madrid in '93 (5)
18 ..... Nigerian striker on target for Anorthosis, Famagusta and Feyenoord (5)
19 ..... Kostas, stalwart midfielder of Panathinaikos and Greece (8)

CLUES DOWN
1 ..... Stuttgart's ex-Kaiserslautern, Leverkusen and Germany defender (4)
2 ..... Chile coach formerly in charge of Bolivia (10)
3 ..... Ex-Genoa midfield man of Milan and Italy (6)
4 ..... Faroe Islands club with which Jens Martin Knudsen became a star (4)
5 ..... Slovakia midfielder in Germany with Dresden and Frankfurt (6)
6 ..... Romanian in European Cup-winning sides of Steaua and Red Star (10)
11 ..... Sofia club, six times Bulgarian champions (6)
12 ..... Cameroon international midfielder who joined Laval in France (6)
15 ..... Name by which Spain's Francisco Javier Gonzalez is familiarly known (4)
16 ..... Ex-OFI Crete Romanian who joined Brescia (4)



Compiled by Christine Ansell

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

POSTCODE _____

JULY

RESULTS

Club Brugge beat Ekeren in Belgian Cup Final . . . Paris St Germain c

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

MIDWEEK

AUSTRIAN CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

LEOBEN 2 AUSTRIA WIEN 1

HARDBERG 1 FAVORITNER 0

SPITTAL 0 SALZBURG 2

GRAZER AK 0 RAPID WIEN 0
(Aet) Rapid Wien won on pens

WEEKEND

LINZER ASK 2 (Russ 42, Lainer og 72)
SALZBURG 0. **Att:** 20,000.

VfB MODLING 0
STURM GRAZ 0. **Att:** 1,000.

RAPID WIEN 4 (Mandreko 2, Slivovski 3, Pivarnik 5, Purk 22)
LINZ 1 (Stumpf 86). **Att:** 8,000.

FC TIROL 1 (Sane 37)
ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Schiener 33). **Att:** 1,500.

VORWARTS STEYR 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 3 (Glatzer 23, Schmid 36, Prosenik 63). **Att:** 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

ADMIRA WACKER 0
RAPID WIEN 2 (Pivarnik 17, Marasek 55). **Att:** 9,000.

FC LINZ 0
FC TIROL 1 (Sane 26). **Att:** 1,500.

STURM GRAZ 2 (Hormann 28, Tsjernisov 39)
SALZBURG 2 (Winklhofer 13, Glieder 80). **Att:** 12,000.

VORWARTS 1 (Westerthaler 77)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 1,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 2 (Mjelde 33, Prosenik 63)
LINZER ASK 0. **Att:** 4,000.

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Scharrer 76)
VfB MODLING 1 (Puskas 31).
Att: 1,000.

SALZBURG 0
RAPID WIEN 0. **Att:** 15,000.

FC LINZ 0
VORWARTS 0. **Att:** 2,000.

STURM GRAZ 3 (Toth 79, Schopp 84, Vastic 88)
LINZER ASK 3 (Linzmaier 53, Metlitsky 60, Ramusch 76). **Att:** 7,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 0
FC TIROL 0. **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

MIDWEEK

AUSTRIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS

RAPID WIEN 2 SALZBURG 0

HARDBERG 0 DSL LEOBEN 1

WEEKEND

SALZBURG 3 (Hasenhuttl 58, Mladenovic 62, Artner 66)
FC LINZ 0. **Att:** 11,000.

LINZER ASK 1 (Weissenberger 55)
ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Gager 31, Sturminen 74). **Att:** 4,000.

VfB MODLING 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Flogel 48).
Att: 4,000.

RAPID WIEN 1 (Barisic 58)
STURM GRAZ 3 (Hormann 47, Wetl 71, Grassler 77). **Att:** 13,000.

FC TIROL 1 (Stoger 47)
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Westerthaler 70). **Att:** 1,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

SALZBURG 2 (Hasenhuttel 7, Winklhofer 30)
ADMIRA WACKER 0. **Att:** 11,000.

LINZER ASK 2 (Gurinovic 43, Metlitsky 73)
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Krinner 63).
Att: 3,000.

VfB MODLING 1 (Helm 70)
FC TIROL 6 (Cerny 27, 58, Kirchler 31, 37, Sane 79, Stoger 87). **Att:** 500.

STURM GRAZ 3 (Prilasnig 45, Wetl 73, Grassler 88)
FC LINZ 1 (Stoffelbauer 83).
Att: 6,000.

RAPID WIEN 1 (Hatz 46)
AUSTRIA WIEN 3 (Mjelde 9, Ogris 43, Prosenik 58). **Att:** 18,000.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	34	14	17	3	46	22	45
FK Austria	34	16	11	7	57	30	43
Rapid Wien	34	18	7	9	58	48	43
Sturm Graz	34	16	11	7	50	40	43
FC Tirol	34	14	9	11	57	42	37
LASK	34	12	11	11	43	43	35
Vorwarts Steyr	34	9	11	14	39	45	29
Admira Wacker	34	9	11	14	44	54	29
FC Linz	34	5	10	19	33	75	20
VfB Modling	34	4	8	22	27	55	16

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

MIDWEEK

FC LIEGE 3 (Varga 1, Fadiga 12, 86)
ANTWERP 1 (Lavigne 58). **Att:** 1,350.

BELGIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG

ANDERLECHT 2 EKEREN 0

AALST 0 CLUB BRUGGE 0

WEEKEND

CERCLE BRUGES 3 (Lauwers 38, 63, Munteanu 60)
LOMMEL 1 (Peeters 86). **Att:** 3,000.

CHARLEROI 2 (Misse Misse 10, 57)
SERAING 3 (Lukaku 17, 24, Lawaree 26). **Att:** 4,000.

GENT 2 (Herreman 35, Dauwen 71)
LIERSE 2 (Lehman 26, De Sousa 51).
Att: 5,800.

STANDARD 4 (Wilmots 15, Bettagno 28, Vidmar 39, pen 48)
BEVEREN 1 (Lodders 65). **Att:** 15,000.

MECHELEN 1 (Czerniatynski 73)
ANTWERP 1 (Severeyns 58).
Att: 5,900.

OOSTENDE 2 (Keshinro 31, Claesen 71)
EENDRACHT AALST 2
(Temmerman 52, 66). **Att:** 5,500.

ST TRUIDEN 0
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Borkelmans 87).
Att: 11,000.

EKEREN 3 (Radzinski 18, 56, M'Ghoghi 53)
CLUB LIEGE 1 (Varga 69). **Att:** 2,000.

RWDM 0
ANDERLECHT 2 (Versavel 60, Preko 77). **Att:** 16,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

BELGIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG

CLUB BRUGGE 3 AALST 0
Club Brugge won 3-0 on agg

EKEREN 4 ANDERLECHT 0
Ekeren won 4-2 on agg

WEEKEND

EENDRACHT AALST 3
(Temmerman 29, Meyssen 70, Van Ankeren 72)
GENT 1 (Viscaal 85). **Att:** 7,000.

ANDERLECHT 3 (Versavel 34, 76, Preko 84)
OOSTENDE 0. **Att:** 18,000.

ANTWERP 0
ST TRUIDEN 3 (Dierickx 9, Driesen 17, Nielsen 51). **Att:** 2,000.

BEVEREN 1 (Lodders 82)
RWDM 1 (Deglas 53). **Att:** 3,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Staelens pen 49, Claessens 55, Ejkelkamp 78)
CHARLEROI 2 (Gerard 8, Misse Misse 62). **Att:** 9,000.

LIERSE 2 (De Sousa 19, Huysmans pen 73)
CERCLE BRUGGE 1 (Renty 47).
Att: 3,500.

LOMMEL 1 (Van Geneugden 1)
EKEREN 1 (Verstraeten 89).
Att: 7,000.

CLUB LIEGE 1 (Segers og 72)
MECHELEN 2 (Czerniatynski 10, Sabbadini 48). **Att:** 1,500.

SERAING 1 (Isaias 83)
STANDARD 1 (Vidmar pen 37).
Att: 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

CERCLE BRUGGE 1 (Claeys 18)
EENDRACHT AALST 1 (De Bile pen 35). **Att:** 4,000.

CHARLEROI 0
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 4,000.

EKEREN 2 (Halmai 59, Verstraeten 82)
LIERSE 4 (Bovri 8, Van Kerckhoven 39, De Sousa 44, Brocken 79). **Att:** 9,000.

GENT 0
ANDERLECHT 2 (Haagdoren 65, Versavel 69). **Att:** 18,000.

FC LIEGE 1 (Crapa 58)
LOMMEL 2 (Van Veldhoven 45, 52).
Att: 2,500.

STANDARD 2 (Vidmar 54, 80)
CLUB BRUGGE 0. **Att:** 22,000.

RWDM 1 (Vandenbergen 90)
SERAING 0. **Att:** 2,000.

OOSTENDE 2 (Van Veirdeghem 7, 81)
BEVEREN 1 (Bogaerts 88). **Att:** 3,000.

ST TRUIDEN 2 (Mornaye'55, Daelmans 82)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

BELGIAN CUP – FINAL

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Claessens 27, Vermant 42, De Brul 83)
EKEREN 1 (M'ghoghi 70).

***BELGIUM* – FINAL**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	34	23	6	5	80	31	52
Standard Liege	34	21	9	4	52	23	51
Club Brugge	34	21	7	6	68	31	49
Aalst	34	14	11	9	63	57	39
Lierse	34	14	9	11	52	52	37
Ekeren	34	12	13	9	57	39	37
Lommel	34	13	9	12	43	42	35
St Truiden	34	11	13	10	34	35	35
Seraing	34	12	10	12	53	45	34
Beveren	34	10	12	12	40	46	32
Mechelen	34	11	9	14	41	46	31
RWDM	34	10	11	13	34	41	31
Charleroi	34	10	11	13	33	43	31
Gent	34	11	8	15	41	53	30
Cercle Bruges	34	9	10	15	43	52	28
Antwerp	34	8	8	18	40	56	24
Oostend	34	5	9	20	34	81	19
FC Liege	34	5	7	22	35	72	17

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

MIDWEEK

WIMBLEDON 0
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 12,041.

EVERTON 3 (Hinchliffe 38, Ablett 50, Amokachi 70)
CHELSEA 3 (Furlong 29, 77, Hopkin 51). **Att:** 33,180.

SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Wilmot og 1, Watson 9, Le Tissier 86)
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Southgate 26). **Att:** 15,151.

NEWCASTLE 3 (Gillespie 7, Peacock 10, Beardsley 70)
TOTTENHAM 3 (Barmby 22, Klinsmann 24, Anderton 26). **Att:** 36,603.

WEST HAM 0
QPR 0. **Att:** 22, 923.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Ehiogu 9)
MAN CITY 1 (Rosler 63). **Att:** 30,133.

COVENTRY 2 (Ndlovu 39, Pressley 73)
MAN UTD 3 (Scholes 33, Cole 55, 79).
Att: 21,885.

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 0
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 32,822.

ASTON VILLA 2 (Yorke 25, 36)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 40,154.

CRYSTAL PAALCE 1 (Armstrong 50)
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 18,224.

EVERTON 0
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 36,840.

IPSWICH 2 (Marshall 52, Pressley og 62)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 12,893.

LEEDS 2 (McAllister pen 80, Palmer 90)
NORWICH 1 (Ward 36). **Att:** 31,982.

LEICESTER 1 (Willis 24)
CHELSEA 1 (Furlong 15). **Att:** 18,140.

NOTTM FOREST 1 (Collymore 18)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 28,882.

QPR 2 (Ferdinand 64, 75)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 45).
Att: 18,367.

MAN UTD 1 (May 5)
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 43,868.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

LEEDS 3 (Yeboah 6, 59, Wetherall 41)
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Armstrong 67). **Att:** 30,942.

WEST HAM 3 (Holmes 29, Hutchison 60, 61)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 22,446.

IPSWICH 0
EVERTON 1 (Rideout 49). **Att:** 14,951.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Anderton 83)
COVENTRY 3 (Ndlovu 33, 64 pen, Dublin 68). **Att:** 24,134.

MAN UTD 2 (Cole 21, Irwin 80 pen)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Charlton 5).
Att: 43,479.

BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 29)
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 30,545.

WEEKEND

WIMBLEDON 2 (Holdsworth 35, pen 40)
NOTTM FOREST 2 (Phillips 14, Stone 73). **Att:** 15,341.

CHELSEA 2 (Furlong 20, Stein 52)
ARSENAL 1 (Hartson 23). **Att:** 9,542.

COVENTRY 0
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 21,814.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Barnes 64, Redknapp 90)
BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 20).
Att: 40,014.

MAN CITY 2 (Quinn 26, Curle pen 80)
QPR 3 (Ferdinand 13, Dichio 77, 89).
Att: 27,850.

NEWCASTLE 3 (Fox 6, Lee 26, Gillespie 28)
CRYSTAL PALACE 2 (Armstrong 51, Houghton 81). **Att:** 35,626.

NORWICH 1 (Goss 56)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Staunton 7).
Att: 19,374.

SHEFF WED 4 (Whittingham 7, 58, Williams 55, Bright 89)
IPSWICH 1 (Mathie 50). **Att:** 30,213.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Monkou 21, Le Tissier 56)
LEICESTER 2 (Parker 58, Robins 89).
Att: 15,101.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 30)
LEEDS 1 (Deane 67). **Att:** 33,040.

WEST HAM 1 (Michael Hughes 31)
MAN UTD 1 (McClair 52). **Att:** 24,783.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

FA CUP – FINAL

EVERTON 1 (Rideout 30)
MAN UTD 0, **Att:** 79,592 *(at Wembley)*.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 4

WEEKEND

DIVISION 1 PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

BOLTON 4 (Coyle 75, De Freitas 86, 118, Paatelainen 105)
READING 3 (Nogan 4, Williams 12, Quinn 119). *(Aet)*. **Att:** 64,107.

***ENGLAND* – FINAL**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	42	27	8	7	80	39	89
Man Utd	42	26	10	6	77	28	88
Nottm Forest	42	22	11	9	72	43	77
Liverpool	42	21	11	10	65	37	74
Leeds	42	20	13	9	59	38	63
Newcastle	42	20	12	10	67	47	72
Tottenham	42	16	14	12	66	58	62
QPR	42	17	9	16	61	59	60
Wimbledon	42	15	11	16	48	65	56
Southampton	42	12	18	12	61	63	54
Chelsea	42	13	15	14	50	55	54
Arsenal	42	13	12	17	52	49	51
Sheffield Wed	42	13	12	17	49	57	51
West Ham	42	13	11	18	44	48	50
Everton	42	11	17	14	44	51	50
Coventry	42	12	14	16	44	62	50
Man City	42	12	13	17	53	64	49
Aston Villa	42	11	15	16	51	56	48
Crystal Palace	42	11	12	19	34	49	45
Norwich	42	10	13	19	37	54	43
Leicester	42	6	11	25	45	80	29
Ipswich	42	7	6	29	36	93	27

FRANCE

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

MIDWEEK

LEAGUE CUP – FINAL

PARIS SG 2 (Roche 21, Rai 84)
BASTIA 0. **Att:** 24,663 *(at Parc des Princes)*.

WEEKEND

NANTES 3 (N'Doram 22, Petros 29, Loko pen 76)
MONACO 3 (Djorkaeff 16, Scifo 30, Henry 90). **Att:** 34,210.

BORDEAUX 2 (Valdeir 6, Histilloles 65)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 8,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia 43)
AUXERRE 4 (Saib 14, Diomede 21, Cocard 64, Martins 69). **Att:** 7,000.

LENS 2 (Tiehi 15, Boli 44)
METZ 2 (Pires 20, Ichoua 54).
Att: 32,000.

MARTIGUES 0
NICE 1 (Nagbe 11). **Att:** 2,000.

MONTPELLIER 5 (Carotti 29, Rizzetto 42, Bebecq og 45, Lefevre 59, Sanchez 76)
CANNES 3 (Charvet 1, Micoud 8, Vieira 87). **Att:** 8,868.

ST ETIENNE 3 (Aulagnier 7, Blanc pen 39, 74 pen)
LILLE 3 (Sibierski 63, 90, Moreau og 88). **Att:** 17,011.

SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 27)
LYON 2 (Maurice 13, Gava 15).
Att: 3,000.

RENNES 4 (Carteron 14, Grassi 20, 36 pen, Andre77)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 15,931.

STRASBOURG 1 (Drobnjak og 46)
BASTIA 1 (Drobnjak 70). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

WEEKEND

FC METZ 2 (Songo'o 5, Kastendeuch pen 89)
LYON 1 (Roy 11). **Att:**12,000.

FRENCH CUP – FINAL

PARIS SG 1 (Le Guen 48)
STRASBOURG 0.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

MIDWEEK

PARIS SG 2 (Roche 42, Allou 56)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 24,471.

WEEKEND

BASTIA 2 (Ziani 51, Burnier 61)
NANTES 2 (Karembeu 29, Loko 41).
Att: 7,000.

AUXERRE 3 (Verlaat pen 44, 86, Cocard 89)
LENS 0. **Att:** 15,000.

CAEN 2 (Lemarchand 17, Dedebant pen 62)
LE HAVRE 2 (Bertin 31, Dhorasso 88.
Att: 15,651.

CANNES 2 (Kozniku 43, Micoud 88)
MONACO 2 (Madar 42, Petersen 68).
Att: 8,000.

LILLE 1 (Farina 3)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 8,419.

LYON 1 (Maurice 57)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 21,750.

METZ 3 (Zitelli 2, Pouget 54, Pires 83)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 9,881.

NICE 0
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 4,239.

PARIS SG 1 (Ginola 82)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 41,396.

RENNES 5 (Fugier 3, Grassi 32, 44, Denis 47, Gourvennec 88)
MARTIGUES 1 (Collot 25).
Att: 10,949.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

BORDEAUX 3 (Valdeir 16, Histilloles 80, Zidane 88)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 20,000.

NANTES 2 (D'Doram 28, Karembeu 72)
CANNES 1 (Kozniku 90). **Att:** 34,210.

MARTIGUES 2 (Tholot 30, Benarbia 31)
LYON 0. **Att:** 4,000.

SOCHAUX 0
AUXERRE 1 (Baticle 52). **Att:** 2,108.

LENS 2 (Tiehi 36, Sikora 42 pen)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 38,409.

MONACO 2 (Ikpeba 32, Djorkaeff 80)
BASTIA 1 (Laurent 83). **Att:** 5,000.

STRASBOURG 1 (Baills 32)
METZ 0. **Att:** 10,961.

LE HAVRE 0
LILLE 1 (Sibierski 59). **Att:** 7,548.

MONTPELLIER 0
RENNES 1 (Lambert 60 pen).
Att: 8,895.

ST ETIENNE 3 (Priou 1, 39, L. Blanc 65 pen)
NICE 3 (L. Sandjak 28, De Neef 73, Ipoua 77). **Att:** 13,423.

***FRANCE* – Final**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	38	21	16	1	71	34	79
Lyon	38	19	12	7	56	38	69
Paris SG	38	20	7	11	58	41	67
Auxerre	38	15	17	6	59	34	62
Lens	38	15	14	9	48	44	59
Monaco	38	15	12	11	60	39	57
Bordeaux	38	16	9	13	52	47	57
Metz	38	16	8	14	50	44	56
Cannes	38	15	8	15	56	48	53
Strasbourg	38	13	12	13	43	43	51
Martigues	38	13	12	13	37	49	51
Le Havre	38	12	13	13	46	49	49
Rennes	38	12	12	14	53	55	48
Lille	38	13	9	16	29	44	48
Bastia	38	11	11	16	44	56	44
Nice	38	11	10	17	39	52	43
Montpellier	38	9	14	15	38	53	41
St Etienne	38	9	11	18	45	55	38
Caen	38	10	6	22	38	58	36
Sochaux	38	6	5	27	29	68	23

GERMANY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

WEEKEND

DUISBURG 1 (Wohlert 57)
1860 MUNICH 1 (Erhard 39).
Att: 15,000.

FREIBURG 4 (Zeyer 5, Heinrich 68, Kohl 73, Heinrich 88)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuka 34).
Att: 16,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Sergio 66, Voller pen 69, Kirsten 85)
HAMBURG 1 (Fischer 10). **Att:** 22,300.

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Nerlinger 14, Scholl 52)
BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Steffen pen 40). **Att:** 42,000.

BOCHUM 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Komljenovic 44). **Att:** 22,000.

BORUSSIA MG 0
FC KOLN 0. **Att:** 34,500.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jeremies 50)
V fB STUTTGART 1 (Berthold 88). **Att:** 8,500.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Fink 28, Tarnat 87)
SCHALKE 2 (A. Muller 41, Buskens 84). **Att:** 27,000.

WERDER BREMEN 3 (A. Herzog 54, Basler 59, 87)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Moller pen 90). **Att:** 39,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

WEEKEND

KARLSRUHE 2 (Schmitt 19, 63)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Kirsten 28, 49, 89, Voller 43). **Att:** 26,000.

BAYER UERDINGEN 3 (Feldhoff 33, Bittengel 66, Passlack 87)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jeremies 73). **Att:** 9,184.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Komljenovic 5)
FREIBURG 2 (Cardoso 16, Kopke og 53). **Att:** 35,000.

1860 MUNICH 1 (Bodden 38)
HAMBURG 1 (Breitenreiter 78). **Att:** 26,700.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Zorc pen 54, Moller 57, Reuter 81)
BOCHUM 1 (Wegmann 64). **Att:** 42,800.

KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Marschall 34, Sforza 64)
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Herrlich 22, Fach 67). **Att:** 38,500.

KOLN 0
DUISBURG 3 (Nijhuis 17, Hopp 48, Lobe 86). **Att:** 21,000.

SCHALKE 0
BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Ziege 16, Scholl 23, Zickler 90). **Att:** 68,000.

VfB STUTTGART 1 (T. Schneider 55)
WERDER BREMEN 4 (Hobsch 38, 49, Bode 45). **Att:** 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0
1860 MUNICH 2 (Nowak 45, Rydlewicz 82). **Att:** 23,000.

HAMBURG 0
KOLN 4 (Rudy 21, Polster 23, 41, Dziwior 87). **Att:** 20,500.

BAYERN MUNICH 0
KARLSRUHE 1 (Bender 19). **Att:** 63,000.

VfL BOCHUM 4 (Waldoch 8, Wegmann 32, 65 pen, Peschel 70)
VfB STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 14,490.

DUISBURG 3 (Lobe 24, Puschmann 76, Azzouzi 87)
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Kuntz 22, Kuka 34). **Att:** 20,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 2 (Rath 45, Schossler pen 54)
SCHALKE 1 (H. Herzog 75). **Att:** 10,500.

FREIBURG 1 (Sammer og 76)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Zorc 48). **Att:** 16,500.

WERDER BREMEN 6 (Ramzy 6, Neubath 16, A. Herzog pen 56, Bode 59, Hobsch 60, Bestchastnykh 80)
BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Passlack 57). **Att:** 39,000.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Pflipsen 54, Effenberg 75)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 32,700.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

KAISERSLAUTERN 4 (Kuka 4, Kadlec 52, Kuntz 74, Haber 89)
HAMBURG 1 (Breitenreiter 19). **Att:** 38,000.

1860 MUNICH 2 (Nowak 31, Bodden 41)
KOLN 1 (Labbadia 83). **Att:** 28,500.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Kirsten 45, Sergio 90)
BAYERN MUNICH 0. **Att:** 27,600.

EINTRACHT 4 (Binz 19, Anicic 32, M. Becker 53, Okocha 90)
DUISBURG 1 (Lobe 83). **Att:** 19,200.

KARLSRUHE 5 (Maucksch og 21, Schmitt 25, 53, Knup 82, 86)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 3 (Ekstrom 13, M. Spies 19, Weichert 89). **Att:** 22,000.

SCHALKE 4 (Anderbrugge 8, Kohn 24, 48, Nemec 61)
WERDER BREMEN 2 (A. Herzog 82, 83). **Att:** 41,000.

VfB STUTTGART 1 (Kogl 3)
FREIBURG 0. **Att:** 53,700.

BAYER UERDINGEN 2 (Feldhoff 54, Krieg 90)
BOCHUM 1 (Peschel 81). **Att:** 26,000.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (S. Freund 72)
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Herrlich 49). **Att:** 42,800.

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	32	19	8	5	67	35	46
Bor. Dortmund	32	18	9	5	63	32	45
SC Freiburg	32	18	6	8	63	43	42
Kaiserslautern	32	15	12	5	52	39	42
Borussia Mg	32	16	9	7	61	37	41
Bayern Munich	32	13	13	6	51	41	39
Karlsruhe	32	11	13	8	48	43	35
Leverkusen	32	13	8	11	57	46	34
Koln	32	11	9	12	50	48	31
Schalke	32	10	11	11	46	47	31
Ein. Frankfurt	32	11	9	12	38	45	31
VfB Stuttgart	32	9	10	13	49	63	28
Hamburg	32	9	9	14	40	47	27
Munich 1860	32	8	11	13	39	51	27
Uerdingen	32	6	11	15	34	49	23
MSV Duisburg	32	6	8	18	28	58	20
VfL Bochum	32	8	3	21	36	64	19
Dyn Dresden	32	4	7	21	31	65	15

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

WEEKEND

MVV 0
AJAX 3 (Finidi 35, Overmars 58, Davids 72). **Att:** 11,000.

GRONINGEN 2 (Bombarda10, 13)
DORDRECHT 2 (Wouden 2, Langerak 60). **Att:** 11,712.

HEERENVEEN 0
GA EAGLES 1 (Heering 38). **Att:** 13,300.

WILLEM II 1 (Van Gastel pen 72)
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 6,200.

NEC 0
NAC 1 (Lammers 32). **Att:** 3,500.

TWENTE 1 (Boerebach 90)
RKC 1 (Muller 43). **Att:** 6,100.

UTRECHT 2 (Vierklau 25, Hofstede 77)
RODA JC 4 (Huiberts 39, Atteveld 48, Van Galen 63, Graef 68). **Att:** 6,000.

VOLENDAM 3 (Wasiman 24, Stefanovic 61, Smeets 62)
VITESSE 2 (Mise 81, Simons 89). **Att:** 3,000.

FEYENOORD 3 (Obiku 20, Kiprich pen 50, 70)
PSV 2 (Ronaldo 31, Hoekstra 35). **Att:** 27,639.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

GA EAGLES 4 (Heering 44, Schenning 76, Michels 79, 86)
WILLEM II 2 (Laros 5, Stewart 21). **Att:** 6,300.

NAC 1 (Gaasbeek 75)
RKC 2 (Petrov 49, 87). **Att:** 9,693.

RODA JC 4 (Doomernik 10, De Kock pen 55, Huiberts 58, Derksen 90)
MVV 0. **Att:** 11,000.

AJAX 4 (Frank de Boer 19, Blind 48, Ronald de Boer 67, Litmanen 82)
VOLENDAM 1 (Stefanovic 27). **Att:** 42,000.

DORDRECHT 1 (Hoop 33)
Hoop 33)
UTRECHT 1 (Van Tiggelen og 54). **Att:** 2,100.

NEC 3 (Hoekman 31, Pothuizen 45, Van Wanrooy 50)
HEERENVEEN 0. **Att:** 2,800.

PSV 3 (Zenden 25, Nilis 40, Ronaldo 45)
TWENTE 1 (Boerebach 50). **Att:** 26,600.

SPARTA 3 (Boogers 6, Jalink 18, 52)
GRONINGEN 1 (Sion 88). **Att:** 2,500.

VITESSE 0
FEYENOORD 3 (Trustfull 16, Obiku 23, 67). **Att:**8,365.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

FEYENOORD 0
AJAX 5 (Overmars 38, Kanu 46, 76 pen, Davis 83, Van Vossen 89). **Att:** 40,000.

UTRECHT 0
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 3,000.

NAC 2 (Remie 5, Lokhoff 69)
HEERENVEEN 3 (Tomasson 36, Tammer 68, Regtop 75). **Att:** 9,128.

MVV 3 (Delahaye 14, Scheepers 35, Straal 89)
DORDRECHT 3 (Koswal 21, Langerak 49, 83). **Att:** 6,000.

RKC 2 (Schreuder 68, Petrov 80)
PSV 4 (Hoekstra 3, Numan 15, Ronaldo 22, Linskens 88). **Att:** 5,200.

TWENTE 1 (Mols 18)
VITESSE 3 (Makaay 27, Van der Weerden 68, Curovic 90). **Att:** 5,600.

VOLENDAM 3 (Smeets 20, Wilson 26, Stefanovic 63 pen)
RODA JC 3 (Atteveld pen 33, 48, Iwan 90). **Att:** 3,000.

WILLEM II 1 (Stewart 11)
NEC 3 (Lok 6, Kooistra pen 72, Van Diemen 78). **Att:** 6,300.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

MIDWEEK

DUTCH CUP – FINAL

FEYENOORD 2 (Taument 10, Obiku 82)
VOLENDAM 1 (Wasiman 47).
Att: 48,146 *(at Feyenoord Stadium)*.

WEEKEND

HEERENVEEN 1 (Tomasson 68)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 12,100.

VITESSE 1 (Korsten 5)
Petrovic 73)
RKC 0. **Att:** 4,919.

AJAX 3 (George 12, 48, Davids 79)
TWENTE 1 (Bruggink 56). **Att:** 19,213.

DORDRECHT 5 (Hoop 9, Wouden 39, Van Tiggelen pen 65, Koswal 72, Hoop 82)
VOLENDAM 1 (Smeets). **Att:** 1,200.

GA EAGLES 2 (De Gier 15, 18)
UTRECHT 4 (Plugboer 7, Gorter 20, 82, Van der Net 21). **Att:** 7,300.

NEC 2 (Van Wanrooy 12, Mikalevitch 89)
GRONINGEN 1 (Sion 87). **Att:** 5,000.

PSV 2 (Ronaldo 83, 88)
NAC 4 (Remie 18, Lambers 74, Van Wonderen 80, Arikan 89). **Att:** 25,100.

RODA JC 5 (Babangida 9, Graef 13, Huiberts 21, 81, Atteveld 58)
FEYENOORD 0. **Att:** 14,500.

SPARTA 2 (Van den Berg 52, Boogers 73)
MVV 2 (Lanckohr 33, Joordens 36). **Att:** 1,500.

***HOLLAND* – Final**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	34	27	7	0	106	28	61
Roda JC	34	22	10	2	70	28	54
PSV Eindhoven	34	20	7	7	85	46	47
Feyenoord	34	19	5	10	66	56	43
FC Twente	34	17	8	9	66	50	42
Vitesse Arnhem	34	14	12	8	55	44	40
Willem II Tilburg	34	13	8	13	44	48	34
RKC Waalwijk	34	11	11	12	46	49	33
Heerenveen	34	12	6	16	47	60	30
NAC Breda	34	11	7	16	54	60	29
Volendam	34	8	13	13	37	55	29
Utrecht	34	8	11	15	43	60	27
Groningen	34	8	10	16	49	64	26
Sparta	34	8	10	16	42	58	26
NEC Nijmegen	34	9	7	18	48	60	25
MVV Maastricht	34	7	9	18	41	71	23
GA Eagles	34	7	9	18	42	77	23
Dordrecht	34	5	10	19	40	67	20

ITALY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

WEEKEND

BARI 3 (Bigica 3, Gerson 42, Protti 81)
TORINO 1 (Rizzitelli 14). **Att:** 19,272.

CAGLIARI 2 (Firicano 58, Gabrieli og 88)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 14,116.

CREMONESE 2 (Florjancic 26, Chiesa 49)
REGGIANA 1 (Futre 87). **Att:** 6,672.

JUVENTUS 0
LAZIO 3 (Di Matteo 73, Boksic 89, Fuser 90). **Att:** 45,189.

MILAN 3 (Lentini 44, Savicevic 56, Simone 78)
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 49,959.

NAPOLI 1 (Cruz 33)
INTER 3 (Orlandini 11, Berti 65, Bergkamp 84). **Att:** 30,000.

PARMA 0
GENOA 0. **Att:** 22,574.

AS ROMA 2 (Balbo 15, Totti 80)
FIORENTINA 0. **Att:** 53,678.

SAMPDORIA 2 (Platt pen 86, 90)
BRESCIA 1 (Neri 3). **Att:** 20,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

WEEKEND

GENOA 0
JUVENTUS 4 (Baggio pen 7, Ravanelli 17, Jarni 34, Vialli 90). **Att:** 29,002.

PARMA 1 (Fiore 13)
BARI 0. **Att:** 20,885.

BRESCIA 1 (Gallo 81)
NAPOLI 2 (Imbriani 37, Agostini 49). **Att:** 7,115.

CAGLIARI 0
SAMPDORIA 2 (Mancini 62, 73). **Att:** 19,318.

FOGGIA 2 (Kolyvanov 46, Cappellini 83)
FIORENTINA 1 (Rui Costa 10). **Att:** 12,865.

LAZIO 4 (Signori pen 35, Negro 38, Rambaudi 72, Winter 90)
INTER 1 (Berti 4). **Att:** 49,823.

MILAN 1 (Lentini 33)
AS ROMA 0. **Att:** 55,000.

PADOVA 3 (Maniero 12, Vlaovic 62, Maniero 84)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 12,394.

TORINO 1 (Chiesa 66)
CREMONESE 1 (Rizzitelli pen 73). **Att:** 16,264.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

NAPOLI 1 (Agostini 45)
MILAN 0. **Att:** 33,000.

BARI 2 (Tovalieri 54, Protti 75)
AS ROMA 2 (Fonseca 6, 69). **Att:** 21,415.

CREMONESE 3 (Chiesa 16, Milanese 21, Florjancic 90)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 11,036.

FIORENTINA 6 (Pellegrini og 24, Batistuta 34, 90, Tedesco 48, Marcio Santos 56, Rui Costa 82)
TORINO 3 (Marcio Santos og 26, Rizzitelli pen 76, 88). **Att:** 33,199.

GENOA 3 (Van't Schip 24, Skuhravy 63, Ruotolo 81)
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 19,919.

INTER 1 (Sosa 18)
CAGLIARI 2 (Valdes 45, M. Paganin og 58). **Att:** 40,000.

JUVENTUS 4 (Ravanelli 12, 70, Deschamps 39, Vialli 66)
PARMA 0. **Att:** 53,302.

LAZIO 1 (Winter 82)
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 43,991.

REGGIANA 2 (Adani og 36, Oliseh 84)
BRESCIA 0. At: 10,479.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

MILAN 0
BARI 1 (Tovalieri 64). **Att:** 50,000.

BRESCIA 1 (Neri 12)
CREMONESE 2 (Tentoni 29, Chiesa 53). **Att:** 8,500.

PARMA 3 (Branca 75, 83, Zola pen 79)
FIORENTINA 0. **Att:** 26,100.

PADOVA 1 (Gabrieli 70)
GENOA 1 (Ruotolo 55). **Att:** 23,700.

SAMPDORIA 2 (Vierchowod 25, Bellucci 66)
INTER 2 (Festa 5, Bianchi 86). **Att:** 30,000.

AS ROMA 3 (Aldair 10, Fonseca pen 70, Balbo 75)
JUVENTUS 0. **Att:** 67,000.

FOGGIA 0
LAZIO 1 (Signori 36). **Att:** 11,600.

CAGLIARI 0
NAPOLI 1 (Pecchia 15). **Att:** 24,800.

TORINO 4 (Rizzitelli 3, Bernardini 15, Pele 26, 43)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 16,100.

***ITALY* – Final**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	34	23	4	7	59	32	73
Lazio	34	19	6	9	69	34	63
Parma	34	18	9	7	51	31	63
Milan	34	17	9	8	53	32	60
AS Roma	34	16	11	7	46	25	59
Internazionale	34	14	10	10	39	34	52
Napoli	34	13	12	9	40	45	51
Sampdoria	34	13	11	10	51	37	50
Cagliari	34	13	10	11	40	39	49
Fiorentina	34	12	11	11	61	57	47
Torino	34	12	9	13	44	48	45
Bari	34	12	8	14	40	43	44
Cremonese	34	11	8	15	35	38	41
Genoa	34	10	10	14	34	49	40
Padova	34	12	4	18	37	58	40
Foggia	34	8	10	16	32	50	34
Reggiana	34	4	6	24	24	56	18
Brescia	34	2	6	26	18	65	12

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

WEEKEND

BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 86)
BENFICA 3 (Stanic 54, 84, Isaias 57). **Att:** 5,000.

MARITIMO 3 (Alex 10, Edmilsson 27, Paulo Alves 86)
BEIRA-MAR 2 (Cabral 11, Pedro Miguel 63). **Att:** 3,500.

BELENENSES 3 (Edin pen 44, Joao Pinto pen 55, Luis Gustavo 78)
CHAVES 1 (M'Jid 32). **Att:** 5,600.

SPORTING BRAGA 2 (Barroso 38, Toni 85)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. **Att:** 7,000.

AMADORA 1 (Mario Jorge 37)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Sergio Cruz 90). **Att:** 4,000.

FARENSE 3 (Hugo 58, Hajry 62, Hassan Nader pen 75)
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 10,000.

SPORTING LISBON 0
FC PORTO 1 (Domingos pen 58). **Att:** 35,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Edmilsson pen 62, Rui Alberto 66)
UNIAO LEIRIA 2 (Reinaldo 4, 26). **Att:** 6,300.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

PORTUGUESE CUP – SEMI-FINALS

SPORTING 3 SETUBAL 0

MARITIMO 1 FC PORTO 0

WEEKEND

BENFICA 3 (Caniggia 34, Stanic 45, Edilson 90)
SALGUEIROS 0. **Att:** 15,000.

CHAVES 1 (Caniggia 34)
AMADORA 0. (Edinho 18). **Att:** 6,000.

FARENSE 4 (Helcinho 6, 65, Hassan Nader 39, Paulo Pilar 80)
MARITIMO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

GIL VICENTE 1 (Mangonga 63)
SPORTING LISBON 2 (Amunike 40, Yordanov 79). **Att:** 7,000.

RESULTS

FC Porto win Portuguese title . . . Celtic win Scottish Cup . . . latest E

UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Lula 60)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 8,200.

UNIAO MADEIRA 1 (Beto 90)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 5,000.

FC PORTO 4 (Rui Barros 2, Aloisio 17, Domingos 46, Folha 57)
BOAVISTA 2 (Rosario 37, Artur 42). **Att:** 15,000.

GUIMARAES 3 (Joao Pinto og 62, Vorkapic 80, Zabovic 85)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 8,300.

VITORIA SETUBAL 0
SPORTING BRAGA 0. **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

BEIRA-MAR 1 (Tarcisio 43)
VITORIA SETUBAL 1 (Stevanovic 57). **Att:** 2,000.

BELENENSES 1 (Mauro Airez 3)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 5,000.

BOAVISTA 1 (Sanchez 12)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Mangonga 32). **Att:** 7,000.

SPORTING BRAGA 2 (Karoglan 17, Fernando Pires 6)
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. **Att:** 8,000.

AMADORA 1 (Rui Neves pen 18)
GUIMARAES 1 (N'Dinga 1). **Att:** 6,300.

SPORTING LISBON 1 (Bakaov pen 6)
CHAVES 0. **Att:** 35,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA 2 (Simic 30, 69)
MARITIMO 2 (Alex Bunbury 8, Edmilsson 40). **Att:** 10,000.

SALGUEIROS 1 (Tulipa 90)
FC PORTO 2 (Rui Barros 28, Domingos 54). **Att:** 6,000.

TIRSENSE 1 (Marcelo Cipriano 90)
BENFICA 3 (Edmilson 45, 75, Stanic 60). **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

BENFICA 1 (Baltazar 17)
SPORTING BRAGA 1 (Edilson 90). **Att:** 15,000.

CHAVES 3 (Toninho 44, Edinho 67 pen 67, Manuel Correia 74)
BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 62). **Att:** 8,300.

GIL VICENTE 0
SALGUEIROS 0. **Att:** 6,000.

MARITIMO 3 (Humberto 8, Edmilsson 26, Paulo Alves 41)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 8,000.

FC PORTO 4 (Folha 57, Domingos 74, 82, Jorge Costa 86)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 80,000.

FARENSE 2 (Hassan Nader 44, 69 pen)
ESTRELA AMADORA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

UNIAO LEIRIA 3 (Dinda 34, Bambo 85, Bertolazzi 87)
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Cabral 15). **Att:** 12,500.

GUIMARAES 2 (Vorkapic 36, Vitor Silva 50)
SPORTING LISBON 2 (Sa Pinto 61, 66). **Att:** 15,000.

VITORIA SETUBAL 4 (Dino 67, Ribeiro 76, To-Sa 80, Jose Carlos 90)
UNIAO MADEIRA 1 (Simic 89). **Att:** 7,000.

PORTUGAL – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	34	29	4	1	73	15	62
Sporting Lisbon	34	23	9	2	59	21	55
Benfica	34	21	5	8	60	30	47
Guimaraes	34	16	10	8	54	43	42
Farense	34	16	5	13	44	37	37
Leiria	34	13	10	11	42	44	36
Maritimo	34	12	11	11	41	44	35
Tirsense	34	14	6	14	35	34	34
Boavista	34	12	8	14	40	49	32
Braga	34	11	10	13	34	42	32
Salgueiros	34	11	7	16	43	50	29
Belenenses	34	10	7	17	30	51	27
Amadora	34	6	14	14	29	38	26
Gil Vicente	34	7	13	14	30	40	27
Chaves	34	10	8	16	33	49	27
Amadora	34	6	14	14	29	38	26
Madeira	34	7	10	17	30	54	24
Beira Mar	34	8	5	21	33	54	21
Setubal	34	3	13	18	26	45	13

● *pending Benfica appeal for replay of game v Sporting*

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

MIDWEEK

CELTIC 1 (P. Grant 20)
PARTICK THISTLE 3 (R. Grant 42, Foster 55, 85). **Att:** 18,693.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Dodds 38, Shearer 68)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Winters 85). **Att:** 21,000.

HIBERNIAN 3 (Weir 62, Wright 65, Harper 69)
HEARTS 1 (Hagen 34). **Att:** 7,146.

MOTHERWELL 2 (Arnott 36, May 59)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 7,760.

PARTICK THISTLE 0
FALKIRK 0. **Att:** 7,606.

CELTIC 3 (Van Hooijdonk 50, Moore og 61, Vata 83)
RANGERS 0. **Att:** 31,025.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

HIBERNIAN 1 (Harper 10)
CELTIC 1 (Falconer 60). **Att:** 6,010.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 0
CELTIC 1 (O'Donnell 75). **Att:** 10,842.

FALKIRK 0
ABERDEEN 2 (Thomson 14, Glass 50). **Att:** 13,000.

RANGERS 1 (Hamilton 51)
PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Taylor 87). **Att:** 45,280.

HEARTS 2 (Hamilton 51, Robertson pen 89)
MOTHERWELL 0. **Att:** 11,172.

KILMARNOCK 1 (Wright 30)
HIBERNIAN 2 (McGinlay 62, Wright 74). **Att:** 11,676.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

RELEGATION PLAY-OFF – 1ST LEG

ABERDEEN 3 DUNFERMLINE 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

MIDWEEK

RELEGATION PLAY-OFF – 2ND LEG

DUNFERMLINE 1 ABERDEEN 3
Aberdeen won 6-2 on agg

WEEKEND

SCOTTISH CUP – FINAL

AIRDRIE 0
CELTIC 1 (Van Hooijdonk 9). **Att:** 36,915 *(at Hampden Park).*

SCOTLAND – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	36	20	9	7	60	35	69
Motherwell	36	14	12	10	50	50	54
Hibernian	36	12	17	7	49	37	53
Celtic	36	11	18	7	39	33	48
Falkirk	36	12	12	12	48	47	48
Hearts	36	12	7	17	44	51	43
Kilmarnock	36	11	10	15	40	48	43
Partick Thistle	36	10	13	13	40	50	43
Aberdeen	36	10	11	15	43	46	41
Dundee Utd	36	9	9	18	40	56	36

SPAIN

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

WEEKEND

LA CORUNA 1 (Donato pen 4)
BARCELONA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Pier 1)
REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Poyet 4, Pardeza 12, Esnaider 90). **Att:** 20,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Bjelica 88)
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 8,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Alkiza 17, Tabuenka 68, Ciganda 70)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Pirri 18). **Att:** 30,000.

REAL BETIS 0
REAL OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 35,000.

CELTA VIGO 1 (Aguirrechu 40)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 25,000.

ESPANYOL 2 (Francisco pen 17, Pacheta 72)
SEVILLA 2 (Monchu 64, Juanito 89). **Att:** 30,000.

LOGRONES 4 (Markovic 3, Gudelj 11, 14, Pizzi 21, Segura 45)
TENERIFE 2 (Pizzi 21, Latorre 90). **Att:** 6,000.

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Muiu 7, 54)
COMPOSTELA 2 (Bellido 14, Lucas 83). **Att:** 20,000.

REAL MADRID 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 95,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

WEEKEND

SEVILLA 0
LA CORUNA 0. **Att:** 25,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Arroyo 9, 38, Fernando 88)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Garitano 61). **Att:** 45,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 3 (Kosecki 11, Kiko 63, Dobrovolski 84)
SPORTING GIJON 2 (Lopez og 59, Morales 65). **Att:** 60,000.

BARCELONA 1 (Cruyff 65)
CELTA VIGO 1 (Gudelj 77). **Att:** 70,000.

COMPOSTELA 1 (Christensen 42)
ESPANYOL 1 (Lardin 82). **Att:** 10,000.

REAL OVIEDO 3 (Rivas 7, 51, Carlos 88)
REAL MADRID 2 (Hierro 44, Luis Enrique 60). **Att:** 23,203.

REAL SOCIEDAD 6 (Luis Perez 42, 44, 46, Villanova og 55, Kodro 60, De Pedro 90)
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 15,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Llorente 32, Olivares 38)
ALBACETE 2 (Morientes 45, Dertycia 85). **Att:** 13,000.

REAL VALLADOLID 0
REAL BETIS 2 (Cuellar 43, Canas 67). **Att:** 12,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Esnaider 72 pen)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Quique Setien 8). **Att:** 36,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

WEEKEND

ESPANYOL 2 (Roberto 9, Ayucar 90)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

ALBACETE 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Idiakez 90). **Att:** 8,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Guerrero 8, 90, Larrazabal 57)
TENERIFE 2 (Llorente 28, Latorre 42). **Att:** 30,000.

REAL BETIS 1 (Stosic 29)
BARCELONA 1 (Nadal 28). **Att:** 44,000.

CELTA VIGO 0
LA CORUNA 2 (Manjarin 16, Alfredo 67). **Att:** 30,000.

COMPOSTELA 0
SEVILLA 4 (Moya 38, 58, Suker 65, Soler 87). **Att:** 11,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Sabou 23)
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 20,600.

LOGRONES 0
REAL OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 52, Armando 66). **Att:** 6,000.

RACING SANTANDER 0
ATHLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 20,000.

REAL MADRID 1 (Chendo 45)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 65,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

BARCELONA 1 (Nadal 63)
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 100,000.

LA CORUNA 2 (Aldana 44, 68)
REAL BETIS 0. **Att:** 23,000.

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Prosinecki pen 44)
ALBACETE 3 (Morientes 52, Zalazar pen 57, Santi 85). **Att:** 14,000.

TENERIFE 3 (Pizzi 1, Ezequiel Castillo 22, 51)
SPORTING GIJON 0. **Att:** 8,000.

VALENCIA 1 (Fernando 66)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Carreras 24). **Att:** 40,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 3 (Lopez 27, Geli 58 pen, Caminero 88)
ESPANYOL 1 (Arteaga 28). **Att:** 45,000.

SEVILLA 2 (Suker 10, Marcos 88)
CELTA VIGO 3 (Merino 35, Gudelj 41, 89). **Att:** 35,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 5 (Kodro 11, 24, 59, De Pedro 17, Idiakez 55)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. **Att:** 25,000.

REAL VALLADOLID 2 (Alberto 37, Herrero og 62)
LOGRONES 1 (Villanova 36). **Att:** 8,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 5 (Poyet 5, Sanjuan 10, Pardeza 18, Esnaider 58, 67)
COMPOSTELA 3 (Ohen 15, Christensen 34, Ohen 88). **Att:** 30,000.

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	36	22	9	5	74	27	53
La Coruna	36	18	11	7	55	30	47
Barcelona	36	17	10	9	58	44	44
Real Zaragoza	36	18	6	12	54	47	42
Real Betis	36	13	16	7	42	24	42
Sevilla	36	16	10	10	52	37	42
Espanyol	36	14	13	9	50	34	41
Athletic Bilbao	36	15	10	11	38	40	40
Real Oviedo	36	12	13	11	44	40	37
Real Sociedad	36	12	13	11	56	43	37
Valencia	36	12	11	13	47	45	35
Tenerife	36	13	8	15	55	53	34
Celta Vigo	36	10	14	12	33	46	34
Atletico Madrid	36	12	8	16	52	52	32
Santander	36	11	10	15	39	47	32
Compostela	36	10	12	14	41	52	32
Albacete	36	9	14	13	41	53	32
Sporting Gijon	36	8	12	16	41	63	28
Real Valladolid	36	7	9	20	22	61	23
Logrones	36	2	9	25	15	71	13

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 7

MIDWEEK

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 5 (Piffaretti 9, Vernier 66, Aleksandrov 70, 77, 90)
FC BASEL 1 (Rey 62). **Att:** 9,600.

SWISS CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

BELLINZONA 0 SION 1

SCHAFFHAUSE 1 DELEMONT 2

FC WIL 0 GRASSHOPPER 2

LUCERNE 0 YOUNG BOYS 1

WEEKEND

FC BASEL 1 (H. Yakin 37)
LUGANO 2 (Colombo 35, Sinval 90). **Att:** 12,500.

LUCERNE 0
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 7,500.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Aleksandrov 7)
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Magnin 4, Rzasa 15). **Att:** 9,400.

SION 2 (Quattara 23, Bonvin 38)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 7,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14

MIDWEEK

FC SION 2 (Quattara 68, Assis 77)
LUGANO 1 (Esposito 38). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEKEND

GRASSHOPPER 3 (Vega 6, Lombardo 43, Willems 68)
FC SION 0. **Att:** 4,250.

LAUSANNE 0
FC BASEL 1 (Rey 53). **Att:** 2,000.

LUCERNE 1 (Guntensperger 28)
LUGANO 1 (Esposito 51). **Att:** 6,000.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Wittl 2, Aleksandrov 30, 86)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 6,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 21

MIDWEEK

SWISS CUP – SEMI-FINALS

SION 6 DELEMONT 1

YOUNG BOYS 1
GRASSHOPPER 2 *(Aet)*

WEEKEND

AARAU 2 (Heldmann 48, D. Wyss 76)
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Koller 86, Gren 90). **Att:** 7,100.

FC BASEL 2 (Zuffi 35, H. Yakin 89)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 13,800.

LUGANO 4 (Manfreda 21, 28, Carrasco 51, Sinval 57)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 3,200.

SION 2 (Kunz 60, Quattara 70)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 2 (Gottardi 18, Aleksandrov 80). **Att:** 7,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 28

WEEKEND

AARAU 3 (Kucharski 24, 51, Matzenauer 90)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 6,000.

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Magnin 16)
FC BASEL 0. **Att:** 16,100.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 5 (Isabella 21, Aleksandrov 49, 63, 85, 90)
LUGANO 2 (Penzavalli 27, Sinval 74). **Att:** 9,400.

SION 5 (Quattara 32, 80, Assis 69, Bonvin 75, Fournier 85)
LAUSANNE 1 (La Placa 69). **Att:** 7,000.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	22	13	5	4	36	21	31
Lugano	22	8	9	5	30	17	25
Aarau	22	8	9	5	34	22	25
Neuchatel	22	9	6	7	33	31	24
Lausanne	22	8	8	6	34	34	24
FC Sion	22	10	3	9	32	37	23
FC Basel	22	6	8	8	18	15	20
Lucerne	22	7	6	9	22	31	20
FC Zurich	22	4	11	7	23	27	19
Servette	22	6	6	10	26	31	18
St Gallen	22	4	10	8	20	28	18
Young Boys	22	6	5	11	23	37	17

EURO TABLES

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aalborg	12	6	4	2	25	11	29
Broendby	12	5	3	4	19	16	27
Silkeborg	12	6	3	3	22	12	24
Aarhus	12	6	2	4	18	17	22
Odense	12	3	3	6	15	21	21
Naestved	12	3	4	5	16	20	19
Lyngby	12	4	1	7	16	25	19
FC Copenhagen	12	3	4	5	18	27	18

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TPV Tampere	26	16	4	6	46	27	52
MyPa	26	15	5	6	49	21	50
HJK Helsinki	26	12	7	7	40	29	43
FC Jazz Pori	26	13	3	10	49	36	42
Haka	26	12	4	10	38	29	40
RoPS	26	10	8	8	32	32	38
FF Jaro	26	10	7	9	35	39	37
TPS Turku	26	9	7	10	38	34	34
FinnPa	26	8	9	9	25	35	33
Kuusysi Lahti	26	9	4	13	41	50	31
MP Mikkeli	26	7	8	11	25	31	29
FC Ilves	26	7	7	12	35	45	28
FC Oulu	26	6	9	11	32	42	27
KuPS Kuopio	26	6	2	18	24	59	20

LUXEMBOURG – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse Esch	22	15	5	2	63	17	35
Grevenmacher	22	15	5	2	35	12	35
Avenir Beggen	22	13	4	5	64	31	30
F91 Dudelange	22	10	3	9	41	37	23
Union	22	8	6	8	40	30	22
FC Wiltz 71	22	7	8	7	36	40	22
Spora	22	7	6	9	38	36	20
Aris Bonnevoie	22	7	5	10	39	45	19
CS Petange	22	7	5	10	30	43	19
Red Boys	22	6	5	11	44	60	17
Swift	22	6	4	12	33	58	16
Wormeldange	22	1	4	17	13	68	6

NORTHERN IRELAND – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders	30	20	7	3	58	25	67
Glenavon	30	18	6	6	76	40	60
Portadown	30	15	5	10	59	41	50
Ards	30	15	5	10	55	42	50
Glentoran	30	14	8	8	53	41	50
Cliftonville	30	13	11	6	44	32	50
Coleraine	30	12	13	5	52	39	49
Linfield	30	11	11	8	48	34	44
Omagh Town	30	10	12	8	42	38	42
Distillery	30	12	6	12	45	47	42
Bangor	30	8	14	8	42	38	38
Ballymena	30	7	8	15	43	53	29
Carrick Rangers	30	6	7	17	43	77	25
Ballyclare	30	6	6	18	41	63	24
Newry Town	30	4	9	17	34	74	21
Larne	30	3	4	23	18	69	13

REP OF IRELAND – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundalk	33	17	8	8	41	25	51
Shelbourne	33	16	9	8	45	32	49
Derry City	33	16	10	7	45	30	46
Bohemians	33	14	11	8	48	31	45
St Patrick's	33	13	14	6	53	36	41
Cork City	33	15	4	14	43	42	39
Shamrock Rov	33	14	9	10	46	36	39
Sligo Rovers	33	12	7	14	43	41	35
Galway Utd	33	10	9	14	39	53	31
Athlone Town	33	6	14	13	31	44	30
Cobh Ramblers	33	5	11	17	29	51	26
Monaghan Utd	33	5	4	24	22	75	25

WALES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bangor City	36	25	7	4	85	23	82
Afan Lido	36	23	7	6	57	32	76
Cwmbran Town	36	20	6	10	67	46	66
Ton Pentre	34	19	87	8	72	47	64
Newtown	34	17	7	10	74	47	58
Flint Town Utd	35	18	3	14	72	57	57
Rhyl	37	17	5	15	74	63	56
Barry Town	36	16	10	11	67	56	55
Llansantfraid	36	15	8	13	56	57	53
Holywell Town	34	13	9	12	53	52	48
Inter Cardiff	34	12	11	11	51	43	47
Connah's Quay	36	13	7	16	61	75	46
Conwy Utd	32	13	6	13	52	51	45
Ebbw Vale	33	11	8	14	49	49	41
Caersws	34	9	10	15	47	57	37
Aberystwyth T	35	8	12	15	52	65	36
Porthmadog	36	9	7	20	50	69	34
Mold Alex	35	10	3	22	49	77	33
Lianelli	35	9	6	20	59	96	33
Maesteg Park	36	1	7	28	19	104	11

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Omonia Nicosia	21	14	6	1	57	16	48
Anorthosis	21	14	5	2	45	18	47
NEA Salamina	21	13	2	6	40	28	41
Olympiakos	22	10	3	9	30	40	33
Apollon	21	9	5	7	29	21	32
ENP	22	8	6	8	32	34	30
Apoel	22	8	6	8	25	29	30
AEL	22	8	4	10	27	39	28
Ethnikos	21	7	4	10	30	33	25
Pezoporikos	22	7	4	11	25	29	25
A. Omonia	22	3	3	16	29	63	12
Aris	21	1	6	14	16	35	9

GIBRALTAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	15	8	5	2	36	15	21
Glacis United	15	7	5	3	31	14	19
St Theresa	15	7	4	4	29	25	18
Lincoln	15	5	4	6	19	23	14
St Josephs	15	4	3	8	24	33	11
Com'd Services	15	3	1	11	19	48	7

GREECE - Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	34	26	5	3	83	21	83
Olympiakos	34	20	7	7	69	31	67
PAOK	34	20	5	9	55	29	65
Apollon	34	20	3	11	61	37	63
AEK Athens	34	17	11	6	61	33	62
Iraklis	34	18	8	8	62	38	62
Aris	34	19	5	10	45	34	62
Xanthi	34	14	8	12	52	55	50
OFI	34	15	4	15	40	38	49
Edessaikos	34	13	3	18	45	54	42
Larissa	34	11	7	16	41	46	40
Athinaikos	34	10	10	14	29	35	40
Ethnikos	34	10	9	15	38	48	39
Panionios	34	10	6	18	36	58	36
Ionikos	34	9	7	18	27	53	34
Doxa	34	8	5	21	28	71	29
Levadiakos	34	5	6	24	21	67	20
Kavala	34	5	4	25	27	75	19

ISRAEL - Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac. Tel Aviv	30	19	6	5	59	27	63
Mac. Haifa	30	17	7	6	68	34	58
Hap. Beersheva	30	14	8	8	53	35	50
Hap. Tel Aviv	30	10	15	5	40	32	45
Hap. Petah Tikva	30	12	8	10	42	36	44
Bet. Jerusalem	30	12	8	10	42	36	44
Zaffririm Holon	30	13	5	12	56	56	44
Mac. Petah Tikva	30	7	14	9	40	41	35
Ironi Rishon	30	7	13	10	39	44	34
Bnei Yehuda	30	8	10	12	43	49	34
Bet. Tel Aviv	30	10	4	16	43	60	34
Hap. Beit She'an	30	8	10	12	30	50	34
Hap. Haifa	30	8	9	13	45	51	33
Mac. Herzliya	30	8	9	13	30	49	33
Ironi Ashdod	30	7	11	12	42	52	32
Mac. Netanya	30	7	9	14	33	50	30

MALTA – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernian	18	13	4	1	42	10	43
Sliema Wand	18	12	3	3	55	22	39
La Valletta	18	11	4	3	45	12	37
Floriana	18	10	5	3	33	13	35
Hamrun Sptns	18	10	3	5	33	23	32
Birkirkara	18	5	6	7	17	24	21
Zurrieq	18	6	2	10	18	36	20
Naxxar Lions	18	4	3	11	15	37	15
Pieta Hotspurs	18	2	3	13	11	40	9
St George's	18	0	2	16	4	56	2

TURKEY - Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	34	24	7	3	80	26	79
Trabzonspor	34	23	7	4	60	27	76
Galatasaray	34	21	6	7	76	38	69
Fenerbahce	34	20	7	7	78	35	67
Genclerbirligi	34	17	8	9	61	45	59
Bursaspor	34	13	12	9	47	39	51
Gaziantepspor	34	14	6	14	50	51	48
Samsunspor	34	12	9	13	54	60	45
Kocaelispor	34	12	8	14	57	60	44
Altay	34	11	11	12	44	57	44
Kayserispor	34	12	6	16	62	70	42
Vanspor	34	11	6	17	38	50	39
Antalyaspor	34	10	8	16	39	46	38
Ankaragucu	34	10	8	16	39	57	38
Denizlispor	34	8	11	15	42	55	35
Zeytinburnuspor	34	7	9	18	35	74	30
Petrolofisi	34	8	5	21	38	73	29
Adana Demirspor	34	3	6	25	25	81	15

ARMENIA – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chirak	28	24	4	0	83	19	52
Homenetmen	28	23	1	4	113	24	47
Ararat	28	21	5	2	109	21	47
Homenmen Fima	28	15	6	7	65	45	36
Banants	28	17	1	10	95	56	35
Tsement	28	11	6	11	54	49	28
Kotaik	28	12	3	13	73	53	27
Aznavour	28	11	3	14	43	72	25
Yerazank	28	9	5	14	29	50	23
Van	28	9	4	15	34	72	22
Zankezour	28	9	4	15	25	77	22
Nayirit	28	7	6	15	33	43	18
Armee Arayi	28	6	5	17	39	79	17
Lori	28	5	6	17	22	65	16
Kanaz	28	1	3	24	15	89	5

CROATIA - Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk Split	30	19	8	3	68	26	65
FC Croatia	30	19	7	4	53	26	64
Osijek	30	16	11	3	65	30	59
Zagreb	30	14	11	5	41	26	53
Marsonia	30	13	8	9	42	32	47
Varteks	30	11	10	9	35	27	43
Inker	30	11	6	13	41	41	39
Segesta	30	10	8	12	32	31	38
Sibenik	30	9	10	11	44	46	37
Cibalia	30	9	10	11	26	33	37
Rijeka	30	8	10	12	22	32	34
Istra	30	8	8	14	30	46	32
Zadar	30	7	10	13	33	47	31
Primorac	30	7	10	13	27	49	31
Neretva	30	4	11	15	20	44	23
Belisce	30	4	4	22	26	69	16

POLAND – Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia Warsaw	30	20	5	5	50	18	45
Widzew Lodz	30	16	10	4	42	21	42
GKS Katowice	30	14	10	6	38	21	38
Zaglebie Lubin	30	14	9	7	41	36	37
Gornik Zabrze	30	10	13	7	41	32	33
Lech Poznan	30	12	8	10	41	30	32
Pogon Szczecin	30	10	9	11	32	33	29
LKS Lodz	30	8	13	9	32	35	29
Sokol Pniewy	30	8	13	9	31	37	29
Stomil Olsztyn	30	7	14	9	34	31	28
Olimpia Poznan	30	8	11	11	40	36	27
Hutnik Krakow	30	7	13	10	29	33	27
Stal Mielec	30	7	13	10	37	43	27
Petrochemia	30	7	11	12	30	40	25
R Czestochowa	30	6	13	11	27	39	25
Stal Stalowa	30	9	7	14	27	40	25
Ruch Chorzow	30	4	15	11	26	40	23
Warta Poznan	30	7	5	18	29	62	19

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moscow Sptk	30	21	8	1	73	21	50
Moscow Dyn	30	13	13	4	55	35	39
Lok. Moscow	30	12	12	6	49	28	36
Rotor Volograd	30	10	16	4	39	23	36
Sptk Vladikakaz	30	11	11	8	32	34	33
Lok Novgorod	30	11	9	10	36	34	31
Kamaz	30	11	9	10	38	37	31
Tekstiltchik	30	11	7	12	30	37	29
Zemzuchina	30	8	11	11	44	48	27
CSKA Moscow	30	8	10	12	30	32	25
Moscow Torpedo	30	7	12	11	28	37	25
Krylia Sovetov	30	6	12	12	30	51	24
Dyn. Tymen	30	7	10	13	24	49	24
Ekaterinbourg	30	7	9	14	33	49	23
Dyn. Stavropol	30	6	11	13	25	34	23
Lada Togliatti	30	6	10	14	24	41	22

SLOVENIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpija	30	20	4	6	78	30	44
Branik Maribor	30	17	8	5	60	24	42
Gorica	30	18	5	7	66	30	41
Mura	30	17	6	7	46	24	40
Beltinci	30	15	8	7	74	32	38
Publikum	30	16	6	8	50	27	38
Rudar	30	16	6	8	55	33	38
Korotan	30	14	4	12	53	36	32
Primorje	30	12	8	10	50	45	32
Oscar Ljubl	30	13	4	13	49	43	30
Istrabenz	30	9	8	18	24	34	26
Donit Ljubl	30	8	4	18	36	58	20
Izola	30	7	6	17	30	73	20
Zivila	30	5	9	16	34	48	19
Kocevje	30	4	9	17	24	91	16
Jadran	30	0	3	27	12	113	3

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kiev Dynamo	30	22	7	1	77	23	73
Chornomorets	30	20	5	5	52	23	65
Dnipro	30	19	6	5	56	27	63
Shakhtyor	30	17	7	6	48	22	58
Tavria	30	15	6	9	56	35	51
Kryvbas	30	12	8	10	31	23	44
Torpedo	30	14	2	14	44	40	44
Prykarpattya	30	11	6	13	35	45	39
Karpaty	30	10	8	12	27	32	38
Kremin	30	10	6	14	34	45	36
Nyva Ternopil	30	10	5	15	35	35	35
SK Mykolayiv	30	10	4	16	28	50	34
Metalurg	30	8	10	12	33	37	34
Veres	30	8	6	16	24	54	30
Nyva Vinnitsa	30	8	5	17	30	46	29
Volyn	30	9	2	19	21	51	29
Zorya	30	8	5	17	29	61	29
Temp	30	8	4	18	27	38	28

YUGOSLAVIA – Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Belgrade	18	14	3	1	63	17	42
Partizan	18	13	2	3	43	20	38
Vojvodina	18	10	4	4	37	26	37
Becej	18	7	4	7	17	27	26
Zemun	18	7	4	7	25	25	25
OFK Belgrade	18	7	3	8	21	28	24
Rad Belgrade	18	4	6	8	24	38	20
Borac	18	3	5	10	15	29	18
Radnicki	18	3	3	12	21	39	17
Hajduk Kula	18	4	2	12	15	32	15

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Budocnost	18	9	4	5	31	23	30
Radnicki Nis	18	8	5	5	27	13	29
Proleter Zrenjanin	18	8	4	6	30	27	24
Napredak	18	8	2	8	19	21	23
Obilic	18	7	3	8	25	27	22
Sloboda	18	7	5	6	16	18	21
Loznica	18	7	3	8	26	29	21
Sptk Subotica	18	7	3	8	15	18	20
Sutjeska	18	7	2	9	23	25	17
Rudar	18	5	3	10	17	28	16

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SATURDAY, MAY 6

May 6 = Moscow – Euro Chp gp 8
RUSSIA 3 (Kechinov 53, Pisarev 72, Moukhamadiev 80)
FAROE ISLANDS 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,500. **Ref:** Kvaratskhelia (Geo)
Russia: Cherchesov – Khlestov, Nikiforov, Kovtun – Tetradze, Kechoniv, Onopko, Cherichev, Piatnitski (Lebed 22) – Pisarev, Moukhamadiev.
Faroes: J-M Knudsen – U Johannesen, J K Hansen, J Rasmussen, Morkore – A Jonsen, M Jarnskor, E Hansen, H Jarnskor (D Jonsen 69) – T Jonsson, J E Rasmussen.

MONDAY, MAY 8

May 8 = Bratislava – friendly
SLOVAKIA 1 (Timko 58)
CZECH REPUBLIC 1 (Smejkal 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Slovakia: Molnar – Glonek, Kinder, Zeman (Stupala 46), Prazenica – Balis, Weiss (Kozac 71), Tomaschek, Moravcik – Timko (Maixner 76), Dubovsky.
Czech Rep: Kouba – Repka, Suchoparek, Kotulek – Hornak, Lerch, Necas (Vavra 90), Bejbl, Smejkal – Drulak (Samec 80), Siegl.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

May 9 = Cayenne – Shell Cup qual
GUYANA 1 (Morisseau 15)
MARTINIQUE 3 (Emika 35, 40, Modestin 65)
HT: 1-2.

May 9 = Cayenne – Shell Cup qual
SURINAM 2 (Campervaar 35, 75)
GUADELOUPE 1 (Choucoutou 20
HT: 1-1.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

May 10 = Yerevan – Euro Chp gp 2
ARMENIA 2 (Grigorian 23, Shakhgeldyan 50)
MACEDONIA 2 (Hristov 60, Markovski 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,500. **Ref:** Fajllstrom (Swe)
Armenia: Abrahamian – Soukiassian, Hosvepian, Tonoyan, Hovannessian – Vardanian, Petrossian, Grigorian, Mkhitarian (Gspeyan) – Shahgueldian, Avetissian (Tahmazian).
Macedonia: Celeski – Stanojkovic, Stojkovski, Najdoski, Markovski – Jovanovski (Kanatlarovski), Hristov, Babounski, Micevski (Nejmedine) – Pancev, Serafinovski.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

May 11 = Cayenne – Shell Cup qual
GUYANA 2 (Aubert 68, Metella 78)
GUADELOUPE 2 (C Pierre-Jean 25, Coucoutou 50)
HT: 0-1.

May 11 = Cayenne – Shell Cup qual
MARTINIQUE 1 (Modestin 37)
SURINAM 1 (Josephzoom 48)
HT: 1-0.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

May 13 = Johannesburg – friendly
SOUTH AFRICA 1 (Khumalo 19)
ARGENTINA 1 (Gallardo 80 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Don (Eng)
S Africa: Crowley – Motaung, Motale, Komphela, Tovey, Tinkler, Buthelezi (Makalakalane 65), Khumalo (Mkhalele 75), Moshoeu, Williams, Masinga.
Argentina: Bossio – Sorin (Lopez 68), Ayala, Fabbri, Zanetti, Vivas (Bassedas 46), Astrada, Gallardo, Ortega, Berti, Asad (Schurrer 88).

May 13 = Cayenne – Shell Cup qual
GUADELOUPE 2 (C Pierre-Jean 75, G Wilts 86)
MARTINIQUE 1 (Modestin 80)
HT: 0-0.

May 13 = Cayenne – Shell Cup qual
GUYANA 4 (Cincinnat 31, 40, Georges 55, Metella 81)
SURINAM 0
HT: 2-0.
● *Guyana qualify for finals*

SUNDAY, MAY 14

May 14 = Cochabamba – friendly
BOLIVIA 1 (M Melgar 15)
PARAGUAY 1 (Esteche 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Seminario (Peru)
Bolivia: Soria – Borja, Sandy, Rimba, Cristaldo, Melgar, V Soria, Chavez (Medrano), Baldivieso, Ramallo (Arandia), Gutierrez (Angulo).
Paraguay: Battaglia (Aceval) – Sarabia, C Ayala, Suarez, Peralta, Ortiz, Baez (Ruiz Diaz), Esteche, C Torres (D Ayala), Ferreira (Gonzalez), Martinez (Campos).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

May 17 = Tel Aviv – friendly
ISRAEL 1 (Brumer 83)
BRAZIL 2 (Ginzburg og 39, Rivaldo 41)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Israel: Ginzburg (R Cohen 46) – Balbul, Brumer, A Hazan (Benadj 76), Shelah, Klinger (Halfon 46), Banin, Revivo, Berkowitz, Zohar (Holtzman 46), Nimni.
Brazil: Zetti – Cafu, Aldair, Cleber, Doriva, Roberto Carlos, Tulio (Giovanni 79), Dunga, Ronaldo, Juninho, Rivaldo.

May 17 = Vilnius – friendly
LITHUANIA 2 (Maciulevicius 30, Preiksaitis 58)
GREECE 1 (Tsartas 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Zhuk (Bye)
Lithuania: Poskus – Suika, Vainoras, Stonkus (Razanauskas 89), Ziukas – Zatautas (Baltusnikas 46), Gudaitis, Preiksiatis (Zuta 85), Maciulevicius (Upstas 64), Skarbalius – Zvingilas (Poderis 46).
Greece: Karkamanis (Michopoulos 66) – Apostolakis, Karataidis (Sakelaridis 77), Vlahos, Zagorakis – Tsaluhidis (Ntampizis 70), Tsartas, Batista (Valentzas 46), Markosas (Tursunidis 46) – Mahlas, Donis (Karasavidis 46).

May 17 = Marrakesh – friendly
MOROCCO 0
EGYPT 0
Att: 8,000.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

May 19 = Riga – Baltic Cup
LATVIA 2 (Zeiberlins 38, Ivanovs 65)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 100. **Ref:** Slyva (Lit)
Latvia: Laizans – Troickis, Sevijakovs, Astafjevs (Blaidels 73), Monjak – Zemlinski (Zaklechevksy 69), Zeiberlins, Ivanovs, Rimkus – Babichev (Butkus 65), Eliseyev (Pozniak 55).
Estonia: Tohver – Nommiks (Meets 44), Kraams, Kiismans (Vaikmeri 71), Pridels – Zelinski, Leipkis (Vaktramae 80), Lelov, Ouns (Kalde 57) – Opers, Arbeiters.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

May 20 = Riga, Latvia – Baltic Cup
LITHUANIA 7 (Skarbalius 27, Baltusnikas 34, Preiksiaits 36, Upstas 57, Zuta 62, Zvingilas 75, Poderis 88)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 100. **Ref:** Lajkus (Lat)
Lithuania: Poskus (Skrupskis 63) – Suika, Vainoras, Ziukas, tereskinas – Stonkus (Apanavicius 66), Preikaitis (Upstas 46), Baltusnikas (Zvingilas 62), Vencevicius, Skarbalius (Zuta 59) – Poderis.
Estonia: Tohver (Kaalma 46) – Meet, Kraams, Kismans (Nommiks 61), Vaikmeri (Opers 38) – Zelinski, Leipkis, Lelov (Priidels 75), Kalde (Ouns 81) – Vaktramae, Arbeiters.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

May 21 = Hiroshima – Kirin Cup
JAPAN 0
SCOTLAND 0
Att: 24,566. **Ref:** Armando Perez (Col).
Japan: Maeakawa – Hashiratani, Ihara, Omura*, Narahashi, Yanagimoto, Ramos (Fukada 51), Yamaguchi, Miura, Nakayama, Morishima (Kitazawa 81).
* = *Omura sent off, 88min.*
Scotland: Leighton – McLaren, McKinnon, Martin, Calderwood (Whyte 79), Lambert (Robertson 37), McKinlay, Spencer*, Gemmill (Bernard 75), Jackson, Burley.
* = *Spencer sent off, 34min.*

May 21 = Riga – Baltic Cup
LATVIA 2 (Zemlinski 34 pen, Astafjevs 75)
LITHUANIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Timofeyev (Est)
Latvia: Laizans – Troickis, Sevijakovs, Astafjevs, Monjak – Zemlinski, Zeiberlins (Zaklechevsky 87), Ivanovs, Rimkus – Babichev (Eliseyev 73), Leidels.
Lithuania: Poskus* – Suika, Vainoras, Ziukas, tereskinas (Zutautas 34; Apanavicius 73) – Stonkos, Preiksaitis, Baltusnikas, Vencevicius (Skrupskis 33), Upstas (Zvingilas 44) – Skarbalius (Zuta 73).
* = *Poskus sent off, 33min.*
● *Latvia win 1995 Baltic Cup*

MONDAY, MAY 22

May 22 = Edmonton – Canada Cup
CANADA 2 (Peschisolido 2)
NORTHERN IRELAND 0

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

May 24 = Toyama – Kirin Cup
SCOTLAND 2 (Robertson 64, Crawford 75)
ECUADOR 1 (I Hurtado 68 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Okada (Jap)
Scotland: Leighton – McLaren, Martin, Calderwood, Bernard, McKinlay, Gemmill, Jackson (Crawford 62), Whyte (Lambert 76), Robertson, Burley.
Ecuador: Cevallos – Capurro, Noriega, I Hurtado, Verduga, Guaman, Carcelen, Garay (Delgado 46), Zambrano, Herrera (Mora 71), E Hurtado.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

May 25 = Oslo – friendly
NORWAY 3 (Rekdal 9, Fjortoft 50, 53)
GHANA 2 (Pele 27, 57)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,312. **Ref:** Peltola (Fin)
Norway: Thorstvedt – Berg, Johnsen, R Nilsen, Flo (Sundgot 77) – Bohinen (T Pedersen 74), Rekdal (Solbakken 46), Skammelsrud, Jakobsen – Bratbakk, Fjortoft.
Ghana: Crentsil – S Johnson, I Asare, Didoo, Kuffour – Y Acheampong, Akonor, Yahya, Pele – Yeboah, Preko.

May 25 = Toftir – Euro Chp gp 8
FAROE ISLANDS 3 (J C Hansen 6, J E Rasmussen 9, J Johnson 62)
SAN MARINO 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,450.
Faeroes: Knudsen – Johannesen, Jens Christian Hansen, Janus Rasmussen, Kurt Morkore, Oessur Hansen, M Jarnskor, Julian Johnsson, H Jarnskor, Todi Jonsson, Jens Erik Rasmussen.
San Marino: Benedettini – Valentini, Gennari, Gasperoni, Gobbi, Manzaroli, Francini, Bacciocchi, Bonini, Mularoni (Ugolini 57), Canti.

May 25 = Edmonton – Canada Cup
CHILE 2 (Valencia 74, Mardones 79)
NORTHERN IRELAND 1 (Dowie 7)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,124.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

May 28 = Edmonton – Canada Cup
CANADA 1 (Peschisolido 13)
CHILE 2 (Valencia 32, Salas 87)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 17,047.
Canada: Dolan – Fraser (Rizi 46th), Samuel, Watson, Yallop, Aunger, Hooper, Miller, Dasovic, Peschisolido (Holness 24th, Thompson 71st), Corazzin.
Chile: Cornez – Acuna, Fuentes, Ramirez, Mendoza, Mardones, Valencia, Guevara, Fabian, Rozental (Goldberg 21st), Salas.

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chile	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Canada	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
N Ireland	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

May 28 = Tokyo – Kirin Cup *(final match)*
JAPAN 3 (Nakayama 36, Miura 46 pen, 53 pen)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Japan: Maekawa – Narahashi, Ihara, Hashiratani, Soma (Kanda 85), Kitazawa (Fukuda 79), Yamaguchi, Tasaka, Miura, Nakayama (Kurosaki 14), Morishima.
Ecuador: Cevallos – Noriega (Carcelen 68), Guaman (De la Cruz 46), Ivan Hurtado, Capurro, Tenorio, Verduga, Garay, Mora (Zambrano), Eduardo Hurtado, Delgado.

May 28 = Tampa, Florida – friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Caliguiri 73)
COSTA RICA 2 (Ilama 20, Soto 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,415. **Ref:** Zimmerman Boulos (US).
US: Friedel – Dooley, Lapper (Bliss 46), Agoos (Kirovski 71), Caligiuri, Jones, Burns, Reyna, Henderson, Kerr (Quesada 88), Wegerle.
Costa Rica: Calvo – Parks, Villalobos, Navarrete (Ulate 58), Conteras, Madrigal, Solis, Segura (Hidalgo 60), Paniagua (Morales 79), Murillo (Quiroz 68), Ilama (Soto 80).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

May 31 = Helsinki – friendly
FINLAND 0
DENMARK 1 (Beck 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,112. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Finland: Laukkanen – Tuomela – Makela, Holmgren, Lindberg – Suominen, Myyry (Tiainen 53), Hjelm, Nieminen – Jarvinen (Paatelainen 46), Sumiala (Enberg 63).
Denmark: Schmeichel – Laursen, J Hogh, Rieper – Wieghorst, J Jensen, Vilfort (P Rasmussen 46), Steen Nielsen, Schonberg – B Laudrup, E Bo Andersen (Beck 46).

May 31 = Belgrade – friendly
YUGOSLAVIA 1 (Petkovic 34)
RUSSIA 2 (Karpin 33 pen, Beschastnikh 41)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Bikas (Gre)
Yugoslavia: Milojevic – Komljenovic, Vujacic, Brnovic (Mirkovic 46), Jokanovic – S Mihajlovic, Nadj (D Kovacevic 54), Govedarica (Curcic 40) – D Petkovic, S Milojevic, D Stojkovic.
Russia: Kharin (Cherchesov 46) – Khlestov, Tetradze, Kovtun – Kulkov, Karpin, Onopko, Cherishev (Atanasiev 58) – Beschastnikh, Shalimov, Kiriakov.

RESULTS

Liechtenstein earn first Euro '96 point against Irish . . . Luxembourg t

May 31 = Cordoba – friendly
ARGENTINA 1 (Fabbri 23)
PERU 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Bello (Uru)
Argentina: Burgos – Zanetti, Ayala (Sorin 43), Fabbri, Schurrer – Bassedas (Escudero 69), Astrada, Berti, Gallardo (Asad 72) – Ortega, Lopez.
Peru: Miranda – Solano, Dulanto*, Jorge Soto, Ubilius – Carranza, Rodriguez, Madallanes (Carmona 46; Pinillos 72), Palacios – Rivera (Garcia 46), Baroni.
* = *Dulanto sent off, 43min.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

Jun 1 = Stockholm – Euro Chp gp 3
SWEDEN 1 (Brolin 16 pen)
ICELAND 1 (A Gunnlaugsson 3)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 26,676.
Sweden: Ravelli – Sundgren, P Andersson, Mattsson, Kamark, Schwarz, Limpar (Larsson 52), K Andersson, Thern, Dahlin, Brolin.
Iceland: B Kristinsson – Adolfsson, K Jonsson, S Jonsson, Stefansson, R Kristinsson, Bergsson, Orlygsson, A Gunnlaugsson (B Gunnlaugsson 78), Gudjohnsen (O Thordarson 90), Sverrisson.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Jun 2 = Algiers – Af Chp gp 4
ALGERIA 1 (Tasfaout 16)
UGANDA 1 (Kigeto 76)
Att: 40,000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Jun 3 = Wembley – Umbro Cup
ENGLAND 2 (Anderton 48, Platt 88 pen)
JAPAN 1 (Ihara 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,142. **Ref:** Uilenbereg (Hol).
England: Flowers – G Neville, Unsworth, Scales, Pearce, Anderton, Batty (Gascoigne 68), Platt, Beardsley (McManaman 68), Shearer, Collymore (Sheringham 76).
Japan: Maekawa – Narahashi, Ihara, Hashiratani*, Soma (Yanagimoto 74), Yamaguchi, Kitazawa, Tasaka, Miura, Nakayama (Kurosaki 65), Morishima (Fukuda 81).
* = *Hashiratani sent off, 88min.*

Jun 3 = Oporto – Euro Chp gp 6
PORTUGAL 3 (Figo 5, Secretario 19, Domingos 20)
LATVIA 2 (Babicev 51, Rimkus 85)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Portugal: Vitor Baia – Nelson (Pedro 81), Paulinho Santos, Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto, Paulo Sousa (Futre 46), Figo, Secretario, Domingos, Rui Costa, Folha.
Latvia: Laizans – Troickis, Astafiev, Zemlinski, Shevliakov, Moniak, Ivanov, Zeiberlins, Rimkus, Teplov (Sprogis 61), Bleidelis (Babishev 38).

Jun 3 = Eschen – Euro Chp gp 6
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 0
Att: 4,500. **Ref:** Agius (Mal)
Liechtenstein: Heeb – Hanselmann, J Ospelt (J Zech 32), W Ospelt (Marxer 64), Hasler, Telser, Ritter, Hilti, Frick, H Zech, Burgmaier.
Rep Ireland: A Kelly – G Kelly, McGrath, Babb, Irwin, McAteer (Kenna 73), Sheridan, Whelan, Staunton, Quinn (Cascarino 60), Aldridge.

Jun 3 = Khartoum – Af Chp gp 6
SUDAN 2 (Abdelbagi 13, al-Nas 60)
TANZANIA 1 (John 36)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Jun 4 = Birmingham, Villa Park – Umbro Cup
BRAZIL 1 (Edmundo 42)
SWEDEN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,131. **Ref:** Jol (Hol).
Brazil: Zetti – Jorginho, Aldair, Ronaldao, Roberto Carlos, Dunga, Cesar Sampaio (Andre Cruz 78), Zinho, Juninho, Edmundo, Ronaldo.
Sweden: B Andersson – Kamark, Lucic, Bjorklund, Ljung, Alexandersson, Thern (Gudmundsson 46), Mild, Erlingmark, Dahlin (Lidman 79), K Andersson (Larsson 68).

Jun 4 = Seoul – Korea Cup
ECUADOR 4 (E Hurtado 4)
ZAMBIA 0
Att: 18,000.

Jun 4 = Yaounde – Af Chp gp 1
CAMEROON 4 (Dikume 10, 73, Njume 49, Mouyeme-Elong 87)
LESOTHO 1 (Lekollo 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.

Jun 4 = Kinshasa – Af Chp gp 1
ZAIRE 5 (Liambi 29, 35, 55, Zola 26, Lowata 77)
ZIMBABWE 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Jun 4 = Monrovia – Af Chp gp 2
LIBERIA 2 (Debah 25, 67)
MAURITANIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000.

Jun 4 = Lome – Af Chp gp 2
TOGO 0
TUNISIA 1 (Ben Hassan 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000.

Jun 4 = Freetown – Af Chp gp 3
SIERRA LEONE 5 (Moh Kallon 32, Musu Kallon 55, 69, Zarppa 75, Sama 78)
NIGER 1 (Ide 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000.

Jun 4 = Addis Ababa – Af Chp gp 4
ETHIOPIA 0
EGYPT 2 (Al-Khassar 7, 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000.

Jun 4 = Port-Louis – Af Chp gp 5
MAURITIUS 0
GABON 3 (Mackaya 42, Ondo 47, 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.

Jun 4 = Conakry – Af Chp gp 6
GUINEA 0
MOZAMBIQUE 0
Att: 60,000

Jun 4 = Gaborone – Af Chp gp 6
BOTSWANA 1 (Dintie 5)
NAMIBIA 1 (Ananais 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,000

Jun 4 = Luanda – Af Chp gp 6
ANGOLA 1 (Akwa 28 pen)
MALI 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000.

Jun 5 = Abidjan – Af Chp gp 7
IVORY COAST 2 (Joel Tiehi 19, Sekou Bamba 65)
MOROCCO 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

Jun 6 = Liverpool, Goodison Park – Umbro Cup
BRAZIL 3 (Roberto Carlos 6, Zinho 52, 63)
JAPAN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,327. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco)
Japan: Kojima – Ihara, Omura, Tasaka (Moriyasu 80), Narahashi, Soma, Yamaguchi, Morishima (Kurosaki 66), Kitazawa, Miura, Nakayama (Fukuda 45).
Brazil: Zetti – Jorginho, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Doriva, Roberto Carlos, Edmundo, Dunga, Ronaldo, Juninho (Leonardo 61), Zinho (Rivaldo 72).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

Jun 7 = Minsk – Euro Chp gp 5
BYELORUSSIA 1 (Gerasimets 27)
HOLLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Orumbouio (Rom).
Byelorussia: Shantolosov – Dovnar (Kashentsev 86), Taikov, Rodnyonok, Gurenko, Zygmantovich, Zhuravel, Yusipets, Romashenko (Antonovich 84), Gerasimets, Kachura.
Holland: Van der Sar – De Kock, Blind (Winter 69), Jonk, Valckx (Numan 64), Seedorf, Van't Schip, Davids, Kluivert, R de Boer, Overmars.

Jun 7 = Sofia – Euro Chp gp 7
BULGARIA 3 (Stoichkov 45 pen, 66 pen, Kostadinov 69)
GERMANY 2 (Klinsmann 18, Strunz 44)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Pairetto (Ita).
Bulgaria: Mikhailov – Kremenliev, Ivanov, Tsvetanov, Hubchev, Yankov, Yordanov (Kostadinov 63), Stoichkov, Penev, Balakov, Lechkov (Sirakov 80).
Germany: Kopke – Sammer, Reuter, Babbel, Helmer, Basler (Moller 80), Strunz (Kirsten 90), Eilts, Hassler, Herrlich, Klinsmann.

Jun 7 = Copenhagen – Euro Chp gp 2
DENMARK 4 (Vilfort 45, 50, B Laudrup 59, M Laudrup 76)
CYPRUS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,199.
Denmark: Schmeichel – Laursen, Rieper, Hogh, Schjonberg, Steen Nielsen (P Rasmussen 46), J Jensen, Vilfort (E Bo Andersen 87), Beck, M Laudrup, B Laudrup
Cyprus: Petrides – Costa, Pittas, Christodoulou, Charalambous, A Andreou*, Engomitis, Larkou, Gogic, Hadjilucas (Phasouliotis 60), Sotiriou (P Andreou 68).
* = *A Andreou sent off, 45min.*

Jun 7 = Toftir – Euro Chp gp 8
FAROE ISLANDS 0
SCOTLAND 2 (McKinlay 25, McGinlay 29)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,881. **Ref:** Hrinak (Slovak).
Faroes: Knudsen – Johannesen, T Hansen, Rasmussen, J Hansen, O Hansen, M Jarnskor (Joensen 55), Johnsson, H Jarnskor, Jonsson, J Rasmussen (Muller 75).
Scotland: Leighton – McKimmie, McKinnon, McLaren, Calderwood, Burley, Jackson, McKinlay, McGinlay (Gemmill 75), Collins, Shearer (Robertson 86).

Jun 7 = Vilnius – Euro Chp gp 4
LITHUANIA 2 (Stonkus 47, Shuika 69)
SLOVENIA 1 (Gliha 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Wagner (Hun).
Lithuania: Stauce – Skarbalius, Stonkus, Tereskinas, Vainoras, Gudaitis, Ziukas, Preiksaitis (Suika 68), V Baltusnikas, Maculevicius (Z Baltusnikas 75), Ivanauskas, Siekys.
Slovenia: Boskovic – Galic (Krizan 78), Englaro, Milanic, Jermanis, Ceh, Novac (Skaper 58), Kokol, Zahovic, Florjancic, Gliha.

Jun 7 = Luxembourg – Euro Chp gp 5
LUXEMBOURG 1 (Hellers 89)
CZECH REPUBLIC 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500.
Luxembourg: Koch – Vanek, Deville, Birsens, Stasser, Ganser (Cardoni 87), Hellers, Weiss, Theis, Langers, Groff (Saibene 73).
Czech Rep: Kouba – Repka (Frydek 68), Suchoparek, Kadlec, Latal, Nemec, Nemecek, Hapal, Berger, Kuka, Skuhravy (Drulak 62).

Jun 7 = Skopje – Euro Chp gp 2
MACEDONIA 0
BELGIUM 5 (Grun 15, Scifo 18, 59, Schepens 27, Versavel 43)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** *Closed doors as disciplinary punishment.*
Macedonia: Celevski – Stanojkovic, Stojkovski, Djurovski, Najdovski, Janevski, Boskovski, Babunski, Pancev, Ferasimovski, Micevski.
Belgium: Bodart – Genaux, Grun, Renier, Smidts, Staelens, Karagiannis, Versavel, Grasson, Scifo, Schepens.

Jun 7 = Chisinau – Euro Chp gp 7
MOLDOVA 2 (Curteanu 10, Kleshchenko 15)
ALBANIA 3 (Kushta 8, Bellai 25, Vata 71)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Fluk (Bel).
Moldova: Ivanov – Secu, Fistican, Pogorelov, Rebeja (Kosse 74), S Stroyenko, A Stroyenko, Belous (Miterev 55), Nani, Curteanu, Kleshchenko
Albania: Strakosha – Bano, Shulku, Malko, Vata, Kacaj, Kushta, Bellai, Kola, Rraklli (Frenga 87), Demollari (Pano 79).

Jun 7 = Belfast – Euro Chp gp 6
NORTHERN IRELAND 1 (Dowie 44)
LATVIA 2 (Zeiberlins 58, Astasjevs 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Roca (Spa).
N Ireland: Fettis – McGibbon (Patterson 45), Worthington, Taggart, McDonald, Morrow, McMahon, Magilton, Dowie, Rowland (Gillespie 64), Hughes.
Latvia: Laizans – Troickis, Astasjevs, Sprougis, Zakresevskis, Monjak, Ivanov, Zeiberlins, Rimkus (Jelisejevs 70), Babicevs (Petplovs 82), Bledidelis.

Jun 7 = Oslo – Euro Chp gp 5
NORWAY 2 (Fjortoft 43, Flo 88)
MALTA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,180.
Norway: Thorstvedt – Haaland (Brattbakk 69), Johnsen, Berg, Nilsen, Flo, Mykland, Solbakken, Fjortoft, Rekdal (Ingebrigtsen 83), J I Jakobsen.
Malta: Cluett – S Vella, Buhagiar (Saliba 76), Attard, Woods, Buttegieg (Edwin Camilleri 28), Busuttil, Agius, Sant Fournier, Laferla, Carabott.

Jun 7 = Zabrze – Euro Chp gp 1
POLAND 5 (Juskowiak 9, 73, Swierczewski 59, Kosecki 63, Nowak 70)
SLOVAKIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Sedlacek (Aut).
Poland: Sczesny – Jaskulski (Czereszewski 75), Zielinski, Bukalski, Waldoch, Kozminski, P Swierczewski, Nowak, Juskowiak, Kosecki, Kowalczyk (Wieszczycki 46).
Slovakia: Vencel – Kozak (Penksa 59), Zeman, Glonek, Prazenica, Tomaschek, Solar, Kristofik (Weiss 69), Timko, Dubovsky, Moravcik.

Jun 7 = Bucharest – Euro Chp gp 1
ROMANIA 2 (Lacatus 16, Munteanu 65)
ISRAEL 1 (Bercovitz 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor).
Romania: Stelea – Petrescu, Belodedici, Prodan, Selymes, Lupu (Pandoru 86), Munteanu, Lupescu, Dumitrescu (Vladoiu 67), Lacatus, Raducioiu*.
* = *Raducioiu sent off, 67min.*
Israel: R Cohen – Halfon, Shelah (Zohar 75), Brumer, Amsalem, Hazan, Klinger, Berkovitz, Banin, Driks, Mizrahi.

Jun 7 = Serravalle – Euro Chp gp 8
SAN MARINO 0
RUSSIA 7 (Dobrovolski 20 pen, Gobbi og 38, Kiriakov 48, Shalimov 49, Beschastnikh 59, Kolivanov 64, Chernishev 86)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,450.
San Marino: Benedettini – Gobbi, Gennari, Mazza, Valentini, Guerra, Manzaroli, Della Valle (Canti 64), Baciocchi, Francini, Montagna (Bonini 78).
Russia: Cherchesov – Kulkov, Tetradze, Kovtun, Shalimov, Karpin, Onopko, Kolivanov, Beschastnikh, Dobrovolski (Radchenko 60), Kiriakov (Chernishev 86).

Jun 7 = Seville – Euro Chp gp 2
SPAIN 1 (Hierro 64 pen)
ARMENIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,000.
Spain: Zubizarreta – Beisue, Augustin Aranzabal, Alkorta, Abelardo, Nadal, Hierro, Goikoetxea (Salinas 46), Guerrero (Caminero 78), Luis Enrique, Amavisca.
Armenia: Abrahamian – Gspeyan, Valdalnian, Tonoyan, Nighoyan (Ter-Petrossian 52), Arsen Petrossian, Petrossian (Avetissian 76), Mkhitarian, Tahmazian, Shagheldian, Artur Petrossian.

Jun 7 = Cardiff – Euro Chp gp 7
WALES 0
GEORGIA 1 (Kinkladze 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,500 **Ref:** Koho (Fin).
Wales: Southall – Phillips, Bowen, V Jones*, Symons, Williams, Horne, Saunders (Hartson 83), Rush, Hughes (Pembridge 83), Cornforth.
* = *Jones sent off, 28min.*
Georgia: Devadze – Beradze, Tskhadadze, Chelia, Chikhradze, Gogichaichvili, Inalishvila, Kavelashvili (Tskitishvili 74), Ketspaia, Kinkladze, Arveladze (Kilasonia 87).

Jun 7 = Montreal – friendly
CANADA 0
TURKEY 3 (Sergen 68, Ogun 86, Hami 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,602. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)
Canada: Dolan Fraser, Samuel, Miller, Watson, Dasovic (Aunger 10), Holness (Berdusco 46), Hooper, Rizi, Thompson (Radzinski 46), Corazzin.
Turkey: Rencber Kilic (Asik 46), Korkmaz, Ozkoylo, Ozlan (Ozer 46), Topcu, Kafkas (Yalcin 46), Kerimoglu, Kocaman (Tumkaya 75), Ozdelik (Temizkanoglu 46), Saglam.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Jun 8 = Leeds, Elland Road – Umbro Cup
ENGLAND 3 (Sheringham 44, Platt 89, Anderton 90)
SWEDEN 3 (Mild 11, 37, K Andersson 46)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 32,008. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco).
England: Flowers – Barton, Pallister (Scales 80), Cooper, Le Saux – Anderton, Platt, Beardsley (Gascoigne 63), Barnes (Barmby 63) – Shearer, Sheringham.
Sweden: Ravelli – Sundgrun, Lucic, Bjorklund, Kamark – Alexandersson, Mild, Erlingmark (O Andersson 88), Gudmundsson – K Andersson (Lidman 84), Larsson.

OTHER MATCH

Jun 8: CHINA 3 SAMPDORIA 1

KOREA CUP

Group A

South Korea 2 Rio Selection 0
Costa Rica 2 Kilmarnock 2
Rio Selection 2 Kilmarnock 1
South Korea 1 Costa Rica 0
Costa Rica 2 Rio Selection 0
South Korea 5 Kilmarnock 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Costa Rica	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Rio Selection	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Kilmarnock	3	0	1	2	4	9	1

Group B

Ecuador 4 Zambia 1
Mechelen 2 Trelleborgs 2
Trelleborgs 1 Ecuador 1
Mechelen 0 Zambia 0
Ecuador 2 Mechelen 1
Zambia 2 Trelleborgs 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ecuador	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Zambia	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Mechelen	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Trelleborgs	3	0	2	1	3	5	2

1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

● *Group winners & six best second-placed teams qualify for finals. Remaining two second-placed teams play-off for place in the finals.*
Note: *Records against bottom two teams in each group do not count towards final positions for qualification purposes.*

GROUP 1

04.09.94	Israel v Poland	2-
07.09.94	Slovakia v France	0-
07.09.94	Romania v Azerbaijan	3-
08.10.94	France v Romania	0-
12.10.94	Israel v Slovakia	2-
12.10.94	Poland v Azerbaijan	1-
12.11.94	Romania v Slovakia	3-
16.11.94	Poland v France	0-
16.11.94	Azerbaijan v Israel	0-
13.12.94	Azerbaijan v France	0-
14.12.94	Israel v Romania	1-
29.03.95	Romania v Poland	2-
29.03.95	Israel v France	0-
29.03.95	Slovakia v Azerbaijan	4-
25.04.95	Poland v Israel	4-
26.04.95	France v Slovakia	4-
26.04.95	Azerbaijan v Romania	1-
07.06.95	Poland v Slovakia	5-
07.06.95	Romania v Israel	2-
16.08.95	France v Poland	
16.08.95	Azerbaijan v Slovakia	
06.09.95	France v Azerbaijan	
06.09.95	Slovakia v Israel	
06.09.95	Poland v Romania	
11.10.95	Romania v France	
11.10.95	Israel v Azerbaijan	
11.10.95	Slovakia v Poland	
15.11.95	Slovakia v Romania	
15.11.95	Azerbaijan v Poland	
15.11.95	France v Israel	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	7	5	2	0	15	5	17
France	6	2	4	0	6	0	10
Poland	6	3	1	2	12	7	10
Israel	7	2	3	2	11	10	9
Slovakia	6	1	2	3	8	15	5
Azerbaijan	6	0	0	6	2	16	0

GROUP 2

07.09.94	Cyprus v Spain	1-
07.09.94	Macedonia v Denmark	1-
07.09.94	Belgium v Armenia	2-
08.10.94	Armenia v Cyprus	0-
12.10.94	Denmark v Belgium	3-
12.10.94	Macedonia v Spain	0-
16.11.94	Belgium v Macedonia	1-
16.11.94	Spain v Denmark	3-
16.11.94	Cyprus v Armenia	2-
17.12.94	Belgium v Spain	1-
17.12.94	Macedonia v Cyprus	3-
29.03.95	Spain v Belgium	1-
29.03.95	Cyprus v Denmark	1-
26.04.95	Armenia v Spain	0-
26.04.95	Belgium v Cyprus	2-
26.04.95	Denmark v Macedonia	1-
10.05.95	Armenia v Macedonia	2-
07.06.95	Denmark v Cyprus	4-
07.06.95	Macedonia v Belgium	0-
07.06.95	Spain v Armenia	1-
16.08.95	Armenia v Denmark	
06.09.95	Belgium v Denmark	
06.09.95	Spain v Cyprus	
06.09.95	Macedonia v Armenia	
07.10.95	Armenia v Belgium	
11.10.95	Denmark v Spain	
11.10.95	Cyprus v Macedonia	
15.11.95	Spain v Macedonia	
15.11.95	Cyprus v Belgium	
15.11.95	Denmark v Armenia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
Belgium	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Denmark	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Cyprus	7	1	2	4	4	12	5
Macedonia	7	1	2	4	5	12	5
Armenia	6	1	1	4	2	7	4

GROUP 3

07.09.94	Iceland v Sweden	0-
07.09.94	Hungary v Turkey	2-
12.10.94	Turkey v Iceland	5-
12.10.94	Switzerland v Sweden	4-
16.11.94	Switzerland v Iceland	1-
16.11.94	Sweden v Hungary	2-
14.12.94	Turkey v Switzerland	1-
29.03.95	Turkey v Sweden	2-
29.03.95	Hungary v Switzerland	2-
26.04.95	Hungary v Sweden	1-
26.04.95	Switzerland v Turkey	1-
01.06.95	Sweden v Iceland	1-
11.06.95	Iceland v Hungary	2-
16.08.95	Iceland v Switzerland	
06.09.95	Sweden v Switzerland	
06.09.95	Turkey v Hungary	
11.10.95	Switzerland v Hungary	
11.10.95	Iceland v Turkey	
11.11.95	Hungary v Iceland	
15.11.95	Sweden v Turkey	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Switzerland	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Sweden	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Hungary	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Iceland	5	1	1	3	3	9	4

GROUP 4

04.09.94	Estonia v Croatia	3-
07.09.94	Slovenia v Italy	1-
07.09.94	Ukraine v Lithuania	3-
08.10.94	Estonia v Italy	3-
09.10.94	Croatia v Lithuania	2-
12.10.94	Ukraine v Slovenia	3-
13.11.94	Ukraine v Estonia	3-

16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania 1-2
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia 1-2
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia 4-1
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine 4-0
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia 3-0
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy 0-2
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia 0-0
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy 0-1
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia 2-0
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine 0-1
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia 2-1
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia 1-3
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia 1-0
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
03.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
Italy	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Lithuania	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Ukraine	7	3	1	3	5	8	10
Slovenia	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Estonia	7	0	0	7	2	18	0

GROUP 5

06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta 6-1
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland 0-4
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia 1-0
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep 0-0
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.94 Norway v Holland 1-1
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway 0-4
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep 0-0
14.12.94 Malta v Norway 0-1
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg 5-0
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg 0-1
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia 4-2
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway 0-2
29.03.95 Holland v Malta 4-0
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta 1-1
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland 3-1
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg 5-0
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland 1-0
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep 1-0
07.06.95 Norway v Malta 2-0
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	7	6	1	0	16	1	19
Holland	7	3	2	2	15	5	11
Czech Republic	6	3	2	1	13	5	11
Byelorussia	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Luxembourg	7	2	0	5	2	18	6
Malta	7	0	2	5	2	15	2

GROUP 6

20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein 4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria 0-4
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal 1-2
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland 0-3
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal 1-3
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland 1-2
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein 4-0
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria 1-0
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia 0-1
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland 0-4
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein 8-0
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland 1-1
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia 5-0
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal 1-0
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland 0-1
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein 7-0
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia 3-2
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland 0-0
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia 1-2
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria 1-3
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	6	5	0	1	17	5	15
Rep. Ireland	7	4	2	1	14	4	14
Austria	6	4	0	2	20	4	12
Northern Ireland	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Latvia	7	2	0	5	6	16	6
Liechtenstein	7	0	1	6	1	28	1

GROUP 7

07.09.94 Wales v Albania 2-0
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova 0-1
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales 3-2
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia 2-0
16.11.94 Albania v Germany 1-2
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales 5-0
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova 4-1
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria 0-3
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany 0-3
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia 0-1
18.12.94 Germany v Albania 2-1
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany 0-2
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales 3-1
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova 3-0
26.04.95 Germany v Wales 1-1
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria 0-3
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania 2-0
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany 3-2
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia 0-1
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania 2-3
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	6	6	0	0	18	4	18
Germany	6	4	1	1	12	6	13
Georgia	7	4	0	3	9	5	12
Albania	7	2	0	5	8	11	6
Moldova	7	2	0	5	7	18	6
Wales	7	1	1	5	6	16	4

GROUP 8

07.09.94 Finland v Scotland 0-2
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece 1-5
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands 5-1
12.10.94 Greece v Finland 4-0
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino 4-0
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia 1-1
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino 2-0
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands 5-0
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino 4-1
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland 1-0
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland 0-0
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland 0-2
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland 0-2
26.04.95 Greece v Russia 0-3
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland 0-4
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands 3-0
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino 3-0
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland 0-2
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia 0-7
11.06.95 Finland v Greece 2-1
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	7	5	0	2	17	8	15
Russia	6	4	2	0	18	1	14
Scotland	7	4	2	1	12	3	14
Greece	6	4	0	2	13	6	12
Faroe Islands	7	1	0	6	5	24	3
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	25	0

LIBERTADORES CUP – 1995

1st Round

Group 1

Apr 14 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 5 (Francescoli, Almeyda, Ortega, Crespo 2)
CERRO (Uru) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chi).
River Plate: Burgos, H. Diaz, R. Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrade, Berti (Gallardo 47), Francescoli, Amato, Ortega (Crespo 64).
Cerro: Franco, Cafu, Torales, Madrid, P. Silva (Bartora 65), Almada, De los Santos (Luzardo 45), Viera, Homann, Cabrera, Acosta.

Apr 14 – Avellaneda (Arg)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 0
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Magallanas)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Imperatore (Chile).
Independiente: Islas, Ramirez, Rotchen, Arzeno, Rios, Cascini (Morales 45), Serrizuela, Cagna, Lopez, Usuriaga, Rambert (Mazzoni 46).
Penarol: Ferro, Tais, Gutierrez, Aguirregaray, Olveira, Baltierra, Rotundo (De los Santos 36), Magallanes (Pacheco 68), Bengoechea, Otero, D. Silva.

Apr 19 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (R. Ayala)
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Magallanes)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Araujo (Bra).
River Plate: Burgos, Rivarola, R. Ayala, C. Ayala, Lavallen, Almeyda, Astrada, Francescoli, Gallardo (Cedres 77), Ortega (Silvani 63), Crespo.
Penarol: Ferro, Tais, Gutierrez, Aquirregaray, Olveira, Baltierra, De los Santos, Bengoechea, Magallanes, Otero (Pacheco 71), D. Silva (Rodrigue 71).

Apr 20 – Avellaneda (Arg)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 2 (Usuriaga, Ramirez)
CERRO (Uru) 1 (Almada).
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Cerdeira (Bra). **Att:** 18,000.
Independiente: Islas, Ramirez, Arzeno, Serrizuela, Rios, Gomez (Morales 46), Cascini, Cagna, Garnero, Usuriaga, Rambert.
Cerro: Franco, Cafu, Torales, Bartora, Silva, Almada, De los Santos, Homann (Ferreira 71), Viera, Cabrera, Acosta.

Group 2

Apr 4 – Asuncion (Paraguay)
OLIMPIA (Par) 4 (Balbuena, Baez 3)
TRUJILLANOS (Ven) 1 (Chagas)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Pena (Bol).
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Caballero, Saravia, Caniza, Jara, V. Sanabria, Esteche (Guirland), Campos, Baez, A. Semaniego (Caballero).
Trujillanos: Golindano, Alastre, Duran, Betancourt, Lupi (Caravallo), Vaviente, Balbuena (Torres), Rengifo, Celedon, Chagas, Ibarguen.

Apr 8 – Asuncion (Paraguay)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 3 (Del Valle, Cabanas, Cohener)
TRUJILLANOS (Ven) 1 (Chagas)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Villamayor, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Alcaraz, Struway, Gomez, Ferreyra, Cabanas, Nunez, Del Valle.
Trujillanos: Golindano, Alastre, Duran, Betancourt, Alvarez, Valiente, Medina, Rengifo, Torres, Chagas, Ibarguen.

Group 3

Apr 4 – Santiago (Chile)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Rozental)
NACIONAL (Col) 1 (Aristizabal)
HT: 1-1.
Univ. Catolica: Tapia, Romero, Ardiman, Lopez, Tupper (Tudor), Lepe, McNiven (Barticciotto), Parraguez, Gorosito, Rozental, Acosta.
Nacional: Higuita, Mosquera, Marulanda, Foronda, Herrera, Gaviria, Gutierrez, M. Serna, A. Serna (Arango), Aristizabal, Angulo (Angel).

Apr 7 – Santiago (Chile)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 0
NACIONAL (Col) 0
Univ. de Chile: Vargas, C Castaneda, Abarca, Traverso, Romero, Mussri, Mardones, Valencia. V. Castaneda (Bravo), Salas, Goldberg (Jara).
Nacional: Higuita, Mosquera, Marulanda, Foronda, Herrera, Gaviria, Gutierrez, M. Serna, A. Serna, Aristizabal (Angel), Angulo (Matamba).

Apr 13 – Santiago (Chile) – play-off.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 4 (Ardiman, Acosta 2, Gorosito)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 1 (Mardones)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Univ. Catolica: Tapia, Romero, Ardiman, Parraguez, Tupper, Gomez, Lepe, McNiven (Lunari), Gorosito, Barticciotto (Olmos), Acosta.
Univ. de Chile: Vargas, C. Castaneda, Traverso, Abarca, Romero, Mardones (V. Castaneda) Mussri, Valencia, O. Acosta (Ibanez), Goldberg (Cossio), Salas.

Group 4

Apr 4 – Sao Paulo (Brazil)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 7 (Edmundo 2, Valber 2, Rivaldo 2, Paulo Isidoro)
NACIONAL (Ecu) 0
HT: 5-0.
Palmeiras: Veloso, Indio, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Flavio Conceicao, Mancuso, Amaral, Paulo Isidoro, Edmundo, Rivaldo.
Nacional: Chiriboga, Rosero, Ajuy, Anangono, Ruiz, Arroyo, Castaneda, Constante, Carrera, Vernaza (Barra), Delgado.

Apr 8 – Porto Alegre (Brazil)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Jacques, Magno)
NACIONAL (Ecu) 0
HT: 0-0.
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Luciano, Scheid, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Arilso, Paulo Nunes, Magno, Alexandre (Jacques).
Nacional: Ybarra, Mercado, Ayovi, Anangono, Arroyo, Valencia, Ruiz, Castaneda, De la Cruz, Vernaza, Delgado.

2nd Round – 1st leg

Apr 15 – Asuncion (Paraguay)
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
GREMIA (Bra) 3 (Dinho, Jardel, Nunes)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Tejada (Peru).
Olimpia: Arbiza, Caceres, Caballero, Saravia, Suarez, Moran, V. Sanabria, Espeche, Monzon, Baez, Samaniego (Amarilla).
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Luciano, Adilson, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Carlos Miguel, Nunes (Magno), Jardel, Ailson.

Apr 25 – Avellaneda (Argentina).
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 0
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 3 (Flores 2, Bassedas)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg).
Independiente: Islas, Ramirez (Burruchaga 81), Arzeno, Serrizuela, Rios, Cagna, Cascini (Rotchen), Gomez, Garnero, Usuriaga, Mazzoni.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona (Herrera 55), Trotta, Sotomayor, Pompei, Basualdo, M. Gomez, Husain, Bassedas, Asad, Flores (Cangialosi 61).

Apr 26 – Caracas (Ven)
CARACAS FC (Ven) 2 (Gonzalez pen., Gerson Diaz)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 2 (Solano pen., Julinho).
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Toro.
Caracas: Barreto, Bencomo (Contreras 82), Vitalli, Gonzalez, Martinez, Hezzel, Bolivar (Giraldo 72), Mendoza, Diaz, Miranda, Salisu.
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Prado, Asteggiano, Jose Soto, Solano, Jorge Soto, Garay, Palacios, Magallanes, Julinho, Maestri (Bica 87).

Apr 26 – La Paz (Bol)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Mercado)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Gonzales (Par).
Bolivar: N'Kono, Rimba, Jiguchi, Sandy, Castillo, Borja, Soria, Rios, Cristaldo, Mercado (Festus), Sanchez (Suarez).
Palmeiras: Veloso, Conceicao, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Amaral, Mancuso, Paulo Isidoro, Valber (Frea), Flavio (Maurillo), Rivaldo.

Apr 26 – Lima (Peru).
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 1 (Rodriguez)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 1 (Mosquera)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Pena (Bol).
Alianza: R.J. Rodriguez, Basombrio, Ruiz, Sozzani, Salazar (Hinostroza), Legario, M. Rodriguez, Roales, Ramirez (Saenz), Muchotrigo, Lente.
Millonarios: Cancelarich, Rivas, Lopez, Alvarez, Dominquez, Y. Mosquera, Nino, B. Mosquera, Rendon, Leon, Iguaran.

Apr 26 – Medellin (Col)
NACIONAL (Col) 3 (Garcia, Aristizabal)
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Otero)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Lamolina (Arg).
Nacional: Higuita, Herrera, Marulanda, Foronda, Osorio, Gutierrez, Gaviria, Serna (Arango), Garcia, Aristizabal, Angulo (Angel).
Penarol: Ferro, Tais, Aguirregaray, Rotundo, Olveira, De los Santos, Baltierra (De Souza), Bengoechea, Otero, Silva, Magallanes (Romero).

Apr 26 – Guayaquil (Ecuad)
EMELEC (Ecu) 2 (Verduga, E. Hurtado)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Robles (Chile).
Emelec: Cevallos, Coronel, I. Hurtado, Tenorio, Capurro, Verduga, Vazquez (Jorginho), Fajardo, Ron, Fernandez, E. Hurtado.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Villamayor, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Alcaraz, Gomez, Struway (Nunez), Ferreira (Torales), Cabanas, Del Valle, Zanabria.

Apr 27 – Santiago (Chile)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 2 (Acosta, Lunari)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (Gallardo)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Matto (Uru).
Univ. Catolica: Toledo, Romero, Ardiman, Lizama, Tuper, Parraguez, Lepe, MacNiven (Lunari 66), Gorosito, Acosta, Barticciotto (Rozental 28).
River Plate: Burgos, H. Diaz, R. Avala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrada, Gallardo, Berti, Francescoli, Ortega (Amato 66).

2nd Round – 2nd leg

May 3 – Asuncion (Paraguay)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 2 (Villamauor, Ferreira)
EMELEC (Ecu) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Araujo (Braz).
Agg: 2-2, Emelec won 5-4 on pens
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez Villamayor, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Alcaraz, Struway (Gomez 89), Enciso, Cabanas (Ferreira 55), Torales, Del Valle, Espinoza.
Emelec: Cevallos, Coronel, Poroso, I. Hurtado, Capurro, Tenorio (Fajardo 81), Smith (Ron 89), Verduga, Vazquez, Gonzalez, E. Hurtado.

May 3 – Porto Alegre (Bra)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Jardel, Adilson)
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,600. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg).
Gremio won 5-0 on agg
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Luciano, Adilson, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Arilson (Rivarola), Carlos Miguel, Paulo Nunes, Jardel.
Olimpia: Arbiza, Caceres, L. Caballero, Saravia, Suarez, Moran, Sanabria, Monzon, Esteche (Amarilla), Baez, M. Caballero.

May 3 – Sao Paulo (Brazil)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 3 (Valber 2, Rivaldo)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000.
Palmeiras won 3-1 on agg
Palmeiras: Veloso, Flavi Conceicao, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Mancuso, Amaral, Paulo Isidoro, Valber, Edmundo, Rivaldo.
Bolivar: N'Kono, Borja, Rimba, Sandy, Jiguchi, Castillo, Melgar, Soria, Cristaldo, Rios, Mercado.

May 3 – Bogota (Col)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 2 (Rendon, Lopez)
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Guevara (Ecu).
Millonarios won 3-1 on agg
Millonarios: Cancelarich, Rivas, Alvarez, Lopez, Dominguez, B. Mosquera, Y. Mosquera (Rodriguez), Rendon, Ramirez, Leon, Osman (Castillo).
Alianza: J. Rodriguez, Salazar, Sozzani, Ruiz, Basombrio, Kopriva, Legario, M. Rodriguez (Rosario), Hinostroza, Saenz, Lente.

May 3 – Montevideo (Uru)
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Silva)
NACIONAL (Col) 3 (Aristizabal, Gaviria, Osorio)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Cerdeira (Bra).
Nacional won 6-2 on agg
Penarol: Ferro, Tais, Aguirregaray, Olveira, Lima (Pacheco 57), Baltierra, De los Santos, Bengoechea, Otero, Magallanes, D. Silva (Rodriguez 40).
Nacional: Higuita, Herrera, Marulanda, Foronda, Osorio, Gutierrez, Gaviria, Serna, Garcia, Aristizabal, Angulo (Pavon 70).

May 4 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 2 (Sanchez, Flores)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 2 (Mazzoni, Rotchen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Oliveto (Arg).
Velez won 5-2 on agg
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Banegas, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Herrera, Gomez (Pandolfi 46), Husain, Pompei, Sanchez, Flores.
Independiente: Islas, Ramirez, Arzeno, Rotchen, Rios, Burruchaga, Gomez (Cascini 81), Cagna, Garnero, Usuriaga, Mazzoni (Maturana 83).

May 4 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 3 (Berti, Gallardo, Francescoli)
UNIV.D CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Ardiman)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Nieves (Uru).
River Plate won 4-3 on agg
River Plate: Sodero, H. Diaz, R. Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrada, Berti, Gallardo, Ortega (Amato 78), Francescoli.
Univ. Catolica: Toleda, Romero, Ardiman, Lizama, Tupper, Lepe, Paraguez (Gomez 60), Lunari, Gorosito, Acosta, Rozental (Barrera).

May 4 – Lima (Peru)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 6 (Maestri, Julinho 2, Solano pen, Palacios, Soto)
CARACAS FC (Ven) 3 (Salisu 2, Diaz)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Imperatore (Chi).
Sporting Cristal won 8-5 on agg
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Solano, Prado, Soto, Asteggiano, Magallanes (Pineda 70), Garay (Pinillos 27), Palacios, Soto, Julinho, Maestri.
Caracas: Barreto, Bencomo, Gonzalez, Mea-Vitali, Martinez, Hezzel (Bolivar 81), Gerson Diaz, Mendoza, Rivas, Salisbu, Miranda.

CONCACAF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Central American zone – 1st round, 1st leg

Apr 19 – Pedro Sula (Hon)
REAL ESPANA (Hon) 1 (Dolmo)
SANTOS (Mex) 1 (Gonzalez)
HT: 1-1.
Real Espana: Bautista, Lopez, Ruiz, Uberti, Anariba, Funez, Bonilla, Martinez, G. Gallegos, E. Gallegos, Dolmo.
Santos: Marmolejo, Castaneda (Perez), Alcantara, Ortega, Algarin, Gonzalez (Baltazar), Quinones, Silva, Romero, Gil, Bejines.

RESULTS

South American & CONCACAF tables . . . African Nations Cup resu

1st round, 2nd leg

Apr 2 – San Salvador (El Salvador)
ALIANZA (ES) 3 (Duran, Melendez, Navarrete)
BAUTISTA (Nic) 2 (Cruz, Zambrano)
HT: 2-1
Alianza won 5-2 on agg

Apr 27 – Zapopan (Mexico)
UA GUADALAJARA (Mex) 4 (C. Morena, Gallaga, Dioney Carlos, Malibran).
COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 1 (Areola)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Dominguez (US)
UA Guadalajara won 7-2 on agg
● *Rueda (Com) sent off after 54 mins.*

CLUB INTERNATIONAL
Apr 26: Quilmes (Arg) 2 Nacional (Uru) 1.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

National A Division – *Closing Championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gimnasia La Plata	13	8	4	1	21	9	20
San Lorenzo	13	9	2	2	21	10	20
Velez Sarsfield	13	7	3	3	18	10	17
Rosario Central	13	5	6	2	24	14	16
Boca Juniors	13	5	6	2	20	13	16
River Plate	13	6	3	4	22	18	15
Lanus	13	6	2	5	19	15	14
Dep. Espanol	13	6	3	5	17	10	14
Banfield	13	4	5	4	13	15	13
Racing Club	13	3	7	3	12	13	13
FC Oeste	13	4	5	4	10	13	13
Platense	13	2	8	3	8	9	12
Independiente	12	4	3	5	14	12	11
Talleres Cordoba	13	2	6	5	13	19	10
Gimnasia Jujuy	12	2	6	4	9	14	10
Huracan	13	2	6	5	13	20	10
Argentinos Juniors	13	2	5	6	15	28	9
Dep. Mandiyu	13	2	5	6	13	18	9
Newell's Old Boys	13	3	3	7	12	19	9
Belgrano Cordoba	13	2	3	8	7	23	7

Bottom relegation averages: Platense 0.870; Newell's 0.861; Gimnasia Jujuy 0.806; Talleres Cordoba 0.593 *(bottom two will be relegated)*

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo Championship – *First Stage*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo	25	14	7	4	41	22	49
Santos	25	12	9	4	44	27	45
Portuguesa	25	12	9	4	38	26	45
Guarani	25	11	7	7	35	28	40
Corinthians	25	9	11	5	38	26	38
Palmeiras	23	10	6	7	41	27	36
Uniao Sao Joao	25	9	8	8	32	31	35
America	25	6	12	7	25	27	30
XV de Piracicaba	25	7	8	10	34	38	29
Rio Branco	25	6	10	9	34	38	28
Ferroviaria	24	8	4	12	21	28	28
Aracatuba	24	8	4	12	25	37	28
Bragantino	25	6	8	11	25	32	26
Juventus	25	6	8	11	22	30	26
Novorizontino	25	5	9	11	21	34	24
Ponte Preta	25	6	6	13	24	49	24

Top seven plus winner of Second Division qualify for second stage

Rio Championship – *Final Round*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Botafogo	9	6	1	2	15	5	20
Flamengo	9	5	2	2	22	13	20
Fluminense	9	6	2	1	16	8	20
Vasco da Gama	9	4	3	2	14	6	16
Bangu	9	2	4	3	8	11	10
America	9	2	3	4	8	10	9
Volta Redonda	9	2	2	5	8	19	8
Entrerriense	9	0	1	8	3	22	1

PERU

Decentralized Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	11	9	1	1	25	7	28
Alianza Lima	11	9	0	2	24	5	27
Dep. Municipal	11	6	2	3	25	14	20
Dep. Sipesa	11	5	4	2	22	8	19
FBC Melgar	11	6	1	4	18	15	19
Ciclista Lima	11	5	4	2	6	17	19
Cienciano	11	5	3	3	16	13	18
Sporting Cristal	10	5	2	3	21	16	17
Sport Boys	11	4	3	4	14	9	15
Alianza Atletico	11	4	1	6	18	27	13
Dep. San Agustin	11	3	3	5	16	19	12
Union Huaral	11	2	5	4	10	17	11
Union Minas	10	3	1	6	13	22	10
Aurich Canana	11	1	5	5	13	18	8
Leon Huanuco	11	1	2	8	4	23	5
Atletico Torino	11	0	1	10	4	29	1

CHILE

First Division

After 6 games: 1) Universidad de Chile 13 pts; 2) Cobreloa, Colo Colo 12; 4) O'Higgins, Universidad Catolica, Coquimbo 11; 7) Antofagasta 10; 8) Palestino, Concepcion 9; 10) Union Espanola 7; 11) Atacama Tamuca, Everton 6; 14) Osorno 5; 15) La Serena, Huachipato 3.

COLOMBIA

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Junior	21	11	8	2	45	23	41
America	21	10	8	3	34	24	36
Indep. Medellin	21	8	10	3	32	22	34
Deportivo Cali	21	8	10	3	36	28	34
Atletico Nacional	21	8	9	4	35	26	33
Caldas	21	8	8	5	29	21	32
Tolima	21	8	7	6	28	27	31
Tulua	21	8	6	7	26	29	30
Indep. Santa Fe	21	6	11	4	27	19	29
Quindio	21	7	7	7	25	26	28
Pereira	21	7	4	10	37	35	25
Union Magdalena	21	6	5	10	19	29	23
Millonarios	21	3	11	7	26	36	20
Cucuta	21	3	8	10	15	31	17
Atletico Huila	21	3	5	13	20	41	14
Envigado	21	2	7	12	23	40	13

URUGUAY

First Division – *Opening Championship*

1) Penarol 20pts; 2) Nacional 19; 3) Defensor Sporting 14; 4) Liverpool 13; 5) River Plate 12; 6) Cerro, Wanderers 11; 8) Sud America 10; 9) Central Espanol 9; 10) Rampla Juniors 5; 11) Danubio, Progreso 4; 13) Basanez 2.

VENEZUELA

First Division – *Final Round*

1) Caracas FC 1pts. 2) Union Tachira 10; 3) Minerven 9; 4) Union Lara 8; 5) Trujillanos 7; 6) Mineros Guyana 5.

ECUADOR

First Division – Opening Championship

1) Espoli 36pts; 2) Barcelona 34; 3) Green Cross 32; 4) Emelec, Liga Universitaria Quito 31; 6) Aucas 23; 7) Dep. Quito 18; 8) Olmedo, Portoviejo 15; 10) Nacional 13; 11) Delfin 10; 12) Nueve de Octubre 8.

BOLIVIA

National Championship

Group A: 1) Oriente Petrolera 21pts; 2) Independiente 18; 3) Guabira 17; 4) Bolivar 12; 5) Real Santa Cruz 9; 6) Wilsterman 8.
Group B: 1) The Strongest, San Jose 23; 3) Blooming 14; 4) Stormers 13; 5) Ciclon 10; 6) Destroyers 1.

CONCACAF

HONDURAS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	27	19	6	2	48	13	63
Motagua	27	15	9	3	42	21	54
Real Espana	27	10	9	8	27	23	39
Real Maya	27	9	10	8	28	24	37
Victoria	27	9	10	8	29	29	37
Marathon	27	9	7	11	34	33	34
Vida	27	8	9	10	38	41	33
Platens	27	5	10	12	18	28	25
Broncos	27	3	12	12	24	40	21
Dep.Progreseno	27	4	6	17	20	54	18

GUATEMALA

Hexagonal Group – *Final*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Comunicaciones	10	7	3	0	29	7	17
Aurora	10	4	4	2	10	12	12
Sacachispas	10	4	2	4	10	9	11
Xelaju	10	2	4	4	7	8	8
Municipal	10	2	4	4	8	10	8
Suchitepequez	10	1	3	6	6	24	5

Comunicaciones champions

Relegation Group – *Final*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coban Imperial	10	6	1	3	16	8	13
Escuintla	10	4	2	4	16	14	10
Mictlan	10	4	2	4	9	10	10
Amatitlan	10	4	1	5	16	15	9
Chiquimulilla	10	3	3	4	15	17	9
Izabal JC	10	3	3	4	11	18	9

MEXICO

First Division – Final Standings
(Regular Championship)
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club America	36	19	13	4	88	46	51
Necaxa	36	16	14	6	68	38	46
UAG	36	14	14	8	50	47	42
Toros Neza	36	12	8	16	55	62	32
UANL	36	7	10	19	34	50	24

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	36	20	8	8	91	45	48
Veracruz	36	12	11	13	43	51	35
Atlante	36	11	11	14	57	69	33
Morelia	36	9	12	15	54	75	30
UAT	36	9	10	17	42	65	28

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	36	22	8	6	70	35	52
UNAM	36	15	11	10	49	36	41
Puebla	36	12	16	8	45	41	40
Toluca	36	10	8	18	44	57	28
Tampico Madero	36	8	7	21	41	73	23

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	36	13	9	14	61	62	35
Monterrey	36	9	15	12	37	52	33
Atlas	36	12	8	16	43	52	32
Leon	36	11	9	16	39	55	31

Top two of each group qualify for quarter-finals except two with lowest number of points (Veracruz and Monterrey) who face two with most points outside top eight (Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara and Puebla) *in play-off for two places.*

COSTA RICA

Second Phase
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saprissa*	6	4	2	0	19	4	10
San Carlos*	6	2	2	2	9	5	6
Cartagines	6	2	1	3	5	9	5
Puntarenas	6	0	3	3	2	8	3

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuela*	6	5	0	1	11	5	10
Perez Zeledon*	6	2	2	2	8	6	6
Herediano	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Ramonense	6	0	2	4	6	15	2

* = *qualified for semi-finals*

EL SALVADOR

First Division – *Final regular championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LA Firpo	36	20	14	2	74	27	56
FAS	36	20	11	5	65	35	54
Aguila	36	12	15	9	54	34	42
Atletico Marte	36	14	13	9	58	44	42
El Roble	36	10	14	12	39	40	34
ADET**	37	12	11	14	51	55	35
Tiburones**	37	8	16	13	42	50	33
Alianza	36	10	10	16	45	54	31
Mu. Limeno	36	4	20	12	34	52	28
Cojutepeque	36	4	10	22	34	111	18

● *One bonus point is awarded to any team that wins by four or more goals.*
** = *ADET won a play-off against Tiburones, 2-0, to decide which club advances to the final round along with the top five clubs.*

SHELL CARIBBEAN CUP – 1995

(Caribbean Zone Qualifying Tournament for the 1996 CONCACAF Gold Cup)

Pre-preliminary Round

07.05.95 Aruba v Dutch Antilles 3-4
14.05.95 Dutch Antilles v Aruba 3-2
Dutch Antilles wins 7-5 on agg & advance to Group A

Preliminary Round
Group A (Cuba)

23.05.95 Dutch Antilles v Puerto Rico
23.05.95 Cuba v Dominican Republic
25.05.95 Puerto Rico v Dominican Rep
25.05.95 Cuba v Dutch Antilles
27.05.95 Dom. Rep v Dutch Antilles
27.05.95 Cuba v Puerto Rico

Group B (French Guyana)

09.05.95 F. Guyana v Martinique...1-3
09.05.95 Guadeloupe v Surinam ...1-2
11.05.95 F. Guyana v Guadeloupe 2-2
11.05.95 Surinam v Martinque.....1-1
13.05.95 Martinque v Guadeloupe 1-2
13.05.95 F. Guyana v Surinam 4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
French Guyana	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Martinque	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Guadeloupe	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Surinam	3	1	1	1	3	6	4

French Guyana advance to Championship Round

Group C

26.03.95 Barbados v Guyana 3-0
02.04.95 Guyana v Barbados 0-4
Barbados wons 7-0 on agg
21.03.95 Granada v St Lucia 2-0
09.04.95 St Lucia v Grenada 4-0
St Lucia won 4-2 on agg
30.04.95 Barbados v St Lucia 1-1
07.05.95 St Lucia v Barbados 2-1
St Lucia won 3-2 on agg & advance to Championship Round

Group D

26.03.95 Dominica v St Vincent.....0-1
02.04.95 St Vincent v Dominica 0-0
St Vincent & Grenadines won 1-0 on agg
26.03.95 Montserrat v Anguilla.....3-2
02.04.95 Anguilla v Montserrat.....0-1
Montserrat won 4-2 on agg
01.05.95 St Vincent v Montserrat ..9-0
07.05.95 Montserrat v St Vincent 0-11
St Vincent & Grenadines won 20-0 on agg & advance to Championship Round

Group E

19.03.95 St Maarten v St Kitts/Nevis..0-2
26.03.95 St Kitts/Nevis v St Maarten..0-1
St Kitts/Nevis won 2-1 on agg
19.03.95 Antigua v GB Virgin Islands ..off
26.03.95 GB Virgin Islands v Antigua ..off
Antigua receives a bye following withdrawal of GBVI
30.04.95 St Kitts/Nevis v Antigua ..1-1
21.05.95 Antigua v St Kitts/Nevin ..2-2
Antigua won 4-3 on pens & advance to Championship Round

Championship Round
Venues: Cayman Islands & Jamaica
Dates: 19-30.07.95

1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

● *Nigeria qualify as holders*
● *South Africa qualify as hosts*

GROUP 1

04.09.94 Zaire v Malawi 1-1
04.09.94 Zimbabwe v Lesotho.....5-0
15.10.94 Malawi v Zimbabwe 3-1
16.10.94 Cameroon v Zaire.....1-0
13.11.94 Lesotho v Cameroon.....2-0
13.11.94 Zimbabwe v Zaire 2-1
08.01.95 Cameroon v Malawi 0-0
08.01.95 Zaire v Lesotho 3-0
22.01.95 Lesotho v Malawi 0-2
22.01.95 Zimbabwe v Cameroon.....4-1
09.04.95 Malawi v Zaire 1-1
09.04.95 Lesotho v Zimbabwe.....0-2
23.04.95 Zaire v Cameroon.....2-1
23.04.95 Zimbabwe v Malawi 1-1
04.06.95 Cameroon v Lesotho.....4-1
04.06.95 Zaire v Zimbabwe 5-0
15.07.95 Malawi v Cameroon
16.07.95 Lesotho v Zaire
29.07.95 Malawi v Lesotho
30.07.95 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	7	4	1	2	15	11	9
Zaire	7	3	2	2	13	6	8
Malawi	6	2	4	0	8	4	8
Cameroon	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Lesotho	6	1	0	5	3	16	2

● *Swaziland withdrew*

GROUP 2

03.09.94 Senegal v Mauritania.....0-0
04.09.94 Guinea-Bissau v Tunisia ...1-3
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
04.09.94 Liberia v Togo 1-0
14.10.94 Mauritania v Guinea-Bissau...1-1
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
16.10.94 Togo v Senegal 2-0
11.11.94 Mauritania v Liberia 1-1
13.11.94 Guinea-Bissau v Senegal...1-4
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
13.11.94 Tunisia v Togo 1-1
07.01.95 Senegal v Tunisia 0-0
08.01.95 Togo v Mauritania 0-0
22.01.95 Liberia v Senegal.....1-1
29.01.95 Tunisia v Mauritania 1-0
10.02.95 Tunisia v Liberia 0-0
07.04.95 Mauritania v Senegal.....0-1
09.04.95 Togo v Liberia 0-0
22.04.95 Senegal v Togo 5-1
23.04.95 Liberia v Tunisia 1-0
04.06.96 Liberia v Mauritania 2-0
04.06.95 Togo v Tunisia 0-1
14.07.95 Mauritania v Togo
16.07.95 Tunisia v Senegal
28.07.95 Mauritania v Tunisia
29.07.95 Senegal v Liberia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liberia	7	3	4	0	6	2	10
Senegal	6	2	3	1	7	4	7
Tunisia	6	2	3	1	3	2	7
Togo	7	1	3	3	4	8	5
Mauritania	6	0	3	3	1	5	3

● *Guinea-Bissau withdrew*

GROUP 3

04.09.94 Congo v Gambia 1-1
04.09.94 Ghana v Sierra Leone.....4-1
16.10.94 Niger v Ghana 1-5
16.10.94 Sierra Leone v Congo 3-2
12.11.94 Gambia v Ghana 1-2
13.11.94 Niger v Sierra Leone.....4-2
07.01.95 Sierra Leone v Gambia.....2-0
08.01.95 Congo v Niger 3-1
22.01.95 Ghana v Congo 3-1
22.01.95 Niger v Gambia 1-1
08.04.95 Sierra Leone v Ghana.....1-0
09.04.95 Gambia v Congo 1-1
22.04.95 Congo v Sierra Leone 0-2
23.04.95 Ghana v Niger 1-0
03.06.95 Sierra Leone v Niger.....5-1
16.07.95 Gambia v Sierra Leone
16.07.95 Niger v Congo
30.07.95 Congo v Ghana
30.07.95 Gambia v Niger
T.B.A: Ghana v Gambia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	6	5	0	1	15	5	10
Sierra Leone	7	5	0	2	16	11	10
Congo	6	1	2	3	8	11	4
Gambia	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Niger	6	1	1	4	8	17	3

● *Central African Republic withdrew*

GROUP 4

03.09.94 Tanzania v Uganda 4-0
04.09.94 Ethiopia v Algeria 0-0
04.09.94 Sudan v Egypt.....0-0
14.10.94 Algeria v Sudan 1-1
14.10.94 Egypt v Tanzania.....5-1
15.10.94 Uganda v Ethiopia.....4-1
11.11.94 Egypt v Ethiopia 5-0
12.11.94 Tanzania v Sudan.....2-0
12.11.95 Uganda v Algeria 1-1
07.01.95 Sudan v Uganda 3-1
08.01.95 Algeria v Egypt 1-0
08.01.95 Ethiopia v Tanzania 1-0
21.01.95 Tanzania v Algeria 2-1
21.01.95 Uganda v Egypt 0-0
22.01.95 Ethiopia v Sudan 2
07.04.95 Algeria v Ethiopia 2
07.04.95 Egypt v Sudan.....3
08.04.95 Uganda v Tanzania 2
22.04.95 Tanzania v Egypt.....1
23.04.95 Ethiopia v Uganda.....0
24.04.95 Sudan v Algeria 2
02.06.95 Algeria v Uganda.....1
04.06.95 Ethiopia v Egypt 0
04.06.95 Sudan v Tanzania.....2
14.07.95 Egypt v Algeria
15.07.95 Tanzania v Ethiopia
15.07.95 Uganda v Sudan
28.07.95 Algeria v Tanzania
28.07.95 Egypt v Uganda
30.07.95 Sudan v Ethiopia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Egypt	8	5	2	1	17	4	1
Algeria	8	2	4	2	7	7	
Uganda	8	2	4	2	9	10	
Sudan	8	3	2	3	9	10	
Tanzania	8	3	0	5	10	12	
Ethiopia	8	2	2	4	4	13	

GROUP 5

04.09.94 Madagascar v Sth Africa...0-
Result nulified, Madagascar withdrew
15.10.94 South Africa v Mauritius...1-
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
13.11.94 Gabon v Mauritius.....3-
13.11.94 Zambia v South Africa.....1
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
20.11.94 Gabon v Zambia.....2
10.01.95 Mauritius v Zambia.....0-
08.04.95 Zambia v Gabon.....1
04.06.95 Mauritius v Gabon.....0-
16.07.95 Zambia v Mauritius

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Gabon	4	3	0	1	8	2	
Zambia	3	2	0	1	5	2	
Mauritius	3	0	0	3	0	9	

● *Madagascar withdrew*
● *Seychelles withdrew*
● *South Africa withdrew after being named as hosts for the finals*

GROUP 6

04.09.94 Angola v Namibia 2
04.09.94 Botswana v Guinea.....0-
04.09.94 Mali v Mozambique.....2
15.10.94 Namibia v Mali.....2
16.10.94 Guinea v Angola.....3-
16.10.94 Mozambique v Botswana .3
30.10.94 Mali v Guinea 2
13.11.94 Mali v Angola.....0
13.11.94 Mozambique v Guinea 2
13.11.94 Namibia v Botswana 1
08.01.95 Angola v Mozambique 1
08.01.95 Botswana v Mali.....1
08.01.95 Guinea v Namibia.....3
22.01.95 Botswana v Angola 1
22.01.95 Mozambique v Namibia 4
09.04.95 Namibia v Angola 2
09.04.95 Guinea v Botswana 5
09.04.95 Mozambique v Mali.....1
23.04.95 Angola v Guinea 3
23.04.95 Mali v Namibia.....2
23.04.95 Botswana v Mozambique .0
04.06.95 Botswana v Namibia 1
04.06.95 Angola v Mali.....1
04.06.95 Guinea v Mozambique 0
16.07.95 Mali v Botswana
16.07.95 Mozambique v Angola
16.07.95 Namibia v Guinea
30.07.95 Angola v Botswana
30.07.95 Guinea v Mali
30.07.95 Namibia v Mozambique

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Angola	8	5	2	1	12	6
Mozambique	8	5	1	2	14	7
Guinea	8	4	1	3	13	8
Mali	8	4	1	3	10	6
Namibia	8	1	3	4	8	16
Botswana	8	0	2	6	5	19

GROUP 7

04.09.94 Burkina Faso v Morocco...
13.11.94 Morocco v Ivory Coast.....
22.01.95 Ivory Coast v Burkina Faso .
09.04.95 Morocco v Burkina Faso...
04.06.95 Ivory Coast v Morocco.....
30.07.95 Burkina Faso v Ivory Coas

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Burkina Faso	3	1	2	0	4	3
Ivory Coast	3	1	1	1	4	3
Morocco	4	1	1	2	2	4

● *Benin withdrew*
● *Cape Verde Islands withdrew*
● *Equatorial Guinea withdrew*

ASIA

BAHRAIN (Mumtaz Div)

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Muharraq	18	11	5	2	29	16
West Riffa	18	10	4	4	22	12
East Riffa	18	9	4	5	34	21
Bahrain	18	7	6	5	27	18
Al Wehda	18	7	6	5	18	14
Al Ahli	18	9	0	9	22	19
Al Qadisiya	18	7	3	8	19	22
Budaiya	18	4	8	6	11	16
Jidhafs	18	3	4	11	9	33
Manama	18	2	2	14	16	36

CHINA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dalian	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Yanbian	5	2	3	0	6	2	9
Beijing	5	3	0	2	8	5	9
Guangdong	5	3	0	2	7	7	9
Shanghai	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Ji'nan	5	1	4	0	6	5	7
Liaoning	5	1	2	2	10	10	5
Qingdao	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Army	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Guangzhou	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Sichuan	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Tianjin	5	1	1	3	4	9	4

DUBAI

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Shabab	18	12	5	1	26	9	29
Al Ain	18	7	9	2	26	15	23
Al Wasl	18	6	6	6	25	20	18
Al Sheab	18	6	6	6	21	18	18
Al Nasr	18	6	6	6	21	24	18
Sharjah	18	6	5	7	25	24	17
Al Ahly Dubai	18	4	6	8	17	24	16
Al Khalij	18	4	3	9	16	23	15
Al Wahda	18	4	6	8	21	22	14
Al Jazira	18	3	6	9	18	35	12

HONG KONG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Golden	15	8	3	4	20	11	27
Eastern	12	8	2	2	23	7	26
South China	11	8	2	1	20	8	26
Happy Valley	13	6	3	3	23	13	26
Frankwell	14	6	3	5	15	16	21
Rangers	14	5	5	4	16	17	20
Sing Tao	12	4	2	6	15	21	14
Kui Tan	15	3	3	10	13	27	11
Instant-Dict	12	1	6	5	14	19	9
Kitchee	16	1	3	12	13	36	6

INDIA
1995 NEHRU GOLD CUP

Iraq 3 Uzbekistan 1, Russia 1 Thailand 1, Russia 0 Iraq 0, Thailand 5 India 0, Russia 2 Uzbekistan 0, India 1 Iraq 1, Iraq 3 Thailand 1, India 1 Uzbekistan 0, Uzbekistan 1 Thailand 0, Russia 3 India 0.

1995 SANTOSH TROPHY

Group I: Punjab 1 Bengal 1, Tamil Nadu 4 Andhra Pradesh 0, Bengal 4 Andhra Pradesh 0, Punjab 4 Tamil Nadu 2, Bengal 1 Tamil Nadu 0, Punjab 1 Andhra Pradesh 1.
Group II: Maharashtra 1 Goa 1, Kerala 5 Orissa 0, Maharashtra 3 Orissa 0, Goa 1 Kerala 1, Goa 5 Orissa 1, Kerala 0 Maharashtra 0.

KUWAIT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Salmiya	24	19	3	2	50	13	60
Al Qadsia	23	15	5	3	45	19	50
Al Jahraa	24	13	7	4	47	18	46
Qazma	23	13	6	4	38	18	45
Al Arabi	24	10	8	6	34	25	38
Al Kuwait FC	24	10	7	7	29	25	37
Al Yarmouk	24	8	7	9	29	31	31
Khitan	24	7	7	10	36	39	28
Al Sahel	23	6	8	9	18	33	26
Al Solaybekhat	24	6	5	13	27	50	23
Al Fheyhel	24	4	10	10	25	37	22
Al Nasr	24	4	8	12	16	30	20
Al Tadamon	23	4	7	12	28	37	19
Al Shabab	24	0	6	18	12	61	6

LEBANON

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ansar	26	18	7	1	47	13	61
Al Nejma	26	15	9	2	33	16	54
Homentmen	26	15	6	5	38	22	51
Homenmen	26	12	11	5	37	22	47
Tadamon	26	11	5	10	38	31	38
Al Hekma	26	7	14	5	28	26	35
Al Akhae	26	8	7	11	25	24	31
Al Safae	26	6	12	8	33	30	30
Al Borj	26	6	11	9	21	26	29
Racing Club	26	6	10	10	29	29	28
Harakat	26	6	7	13	36	55	25
Ahli Sarba	26	6	6	14	25	40	24
Al Salam	26	6	2	18	31	54	20
Ahli Saida	26	2	9	15	13	39	15

OMAN
League championship play-off: SUR 2 (Mohamed Khamis 82, Yousef Saleh 87) **AL SEIB 1** (Hammoud Khalfan 90). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,000.

QATAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Rayyan	14	12	2	0	20	6	38
Al Ittihad	13	6	6	1	13	5	24
Al Arabi	13	6	2	5	16	12	20
Al Shamal	12	5	3	4	12	11	18
Al Wakra	13	3	6	4	12	11	15
Al Ahly	11	2	5	4	10	14	11
Qatar SC	13	2	5	6	7	14	11
Al Sadd	12	1	3	7	7	18	9
Al Taawon	11	1	2	8	3	10	5

HH HEIR APPARENT *(CROWN PRINCE)* CUP

Semi-finals: Al Rayyan 2 (Z. Kawari, A. Mubarak) Al Shemal 0, Al Rayyan 4 (H. Jaafar, M.S. Al Enazi 3) Al Shemal 1 (A. Dahham). *Al Rayyan won 6-1 on agg*
Al Arabi 1 (K. Malki) I Ittihad 2 (M. Adam 2), Al Arabi 3 (H. Rashed, K. Malki, M. Antonio) Al Ittihad 0. *Al Arabi won 4-2 on agg*
Final: Al Rayyan 1 (M.S. Al Enazi) Al Arabi 0.

LEBANON

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ansar	22	16	5	1	41	11	53
Al Nejmeh	22	14	6	2	31	15	48
Homentmen	22	13	5	4	34	19	44
Homenmen	22	10	9	3	30	18	39
Al Tadamon Tyr	22	9	5	8	32	23	32
La Sagesse	22	5	13	4	24	24	28
Racing	22	6	7	9	17	23	25
Al Safa	22	5	9	8	27	25	24
Al Ikhaa	22	6	5	11	20	23	23
Al Borj	22	4	10	8	16	25	22
Ht Al Shabab	22	5	6	11	32	47	21
Al Ahly Sarba	22	5	5	12	19	32	20
Al Salam	22	6	2	14	24	41	20
Al Ahly Sidon	22	2	9	11	11	30	15

SAUDI ARABIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Hilal	22	12	7	3	40	17	43
Al Ittifaq	22	12	5	5	46	25	41
Al Riyadh SC	22	11	8	3	36	21	41
Al Nasr	22	11	7	4	35	19	40
Al Shabab	22	10	4	8	36	33	34
Al Ahly	22	7	10	5	32	31	31
Al Ittihad	22	8	6	8	32	20	30
Al Qadsia	22	8	5	9	32	36	29
Al Raed	22	6	5	11	24	38	23
Al Nejmeh	22	5	6	11	31	42	21
Al Wahda	22	6	3	13	25	49	21
Al Rawda	22	1	4	17	19	57	7

SOUTH KOREA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hyundai	7	5	2	0	14	5	17
Ilhwa Chonma	7	3	4	0	7	4	13
Daewoo Royals	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
Chun-Buk Dinos	7	2	2	3	8	6	8
Yukong Elephants	7	2	2	3	9	11	8
Lucky-Goldstar	7	1	3	3	6	9	6
Posco Atoms	7	1	3	3	4	7	6
Chun-Nam	7	1	3	3	6	13	6

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
1994-95 Super Cup – *half-way stage*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ain	5	3	2	0	9	4	11
Sharjah	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
Al Wasl	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Al Nasr	5	1	3	1	6	7	6
Al Sha'ab	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Al Shabab	5	1	1	3	5	10	4

SOUTH ASIAN GOLD CUP

Group A: Pakistan 1 Bangladesh 0, Nepal 0 Bangladesh 2, Nepal 2 Pakistan 0.
Group B: Sri Lanka 2 India 2, Maldives withdrew, Sri Lanka won toss to qualify.
Semi-finals: Bangladesh 0 India 0 *(Aet, India won 4-2 on pens)*, Sri Lanka 2 Nepal 1.
Final: Sri Lanka 1 (Sarath Wellage 108) India 0 *(sudden-death extra-time)*.

1996 ASIAN CUP

- *Japan qualify as holders*
- *UAE qualify as hosts*

EAST ASIA
Group 1
South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Guam
Group 2
China, Hong Kong, Macao, Philippines
SOUTH EAST
Group 3
Thailand, Singapore, Maldives, Burma
Group 4
Malaysia, Indonesia, India
SOUTH CENTRAL
Group 5
Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Oman
Group 6
Iraq, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan
WEST
Group 7
Qatar, Syria, Kazakhstan
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BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

Blatter's tackle from behind

SEPP ('51 BAD IDEAS A DAY') BLATTER has been burbling on again, on the front page of *FIFA News*.

I suppose he has to fill the space and justify his own existence, somehow, in the years of office which remain to him.

He was banging on about those referees who don't give penalties when they should do, telling us, quite superfluously, that a direct free-kick is exactly that, whether it occurs in the penalty box or in midfield, and should be punished accordingly.

It's wrong, he pursues – and who could gainsay him? – to refuse a spot kick because it comes at a certain time of the game, or to funk the issue (as so many referees do) by awarding a free-kick on the edge of the box. Except that now, of course, the concomitant of that free-kick could be the sending-off of the offender under the dispensations of the professional foul rule.

What Blatter predictably ignores is that the stupid rule brought in by FIFA on the verge of the 1990 World Cup finals, not only belatedly adopting the professional foul rule but applying it to the penalty box, as well, must make a referee think twice before awarding a spot kick. Knowing that it implies, as often as not (if he thinks a goal was thus prevented) a double jeopardy.

As for the legacy of last year's International Board diktat, so eagerly promulgated by FIFA, again on the very eve of a World Cup, it has been dubious indeed. A foul tackle from behind should, as we know, now automatically be punished by expulsion.

Good old Joao Havelange, and FIFA, initially got it hopelessly wrong in America, decreeing that ANY tackle from behind should result in a red card. Indeed, Havelange actually went so far as to announce that any referee who did not follow the diktat should be on the next plane home! And this is the man who, for 21 inglorious years, has led world football. To vary an old *Esquire* magazine title, Latins are lousy leaders.

Anyone who regularly watches football in their own country, and televised soccer from elsewhere, will know full well that this has been a ruling infinitely more honoured in the breach than in the observance. And who would have expected anything else?

But not giving penalties for fouls in the box hasn't even been the half of it this season. Just as I forecast before it began, those fierce rulings issued by FIFA and the FA have largely been a dead letter, after the inevitable anxious referees' beginning.

Inconsistency rules; okay. Or rather, not at all okay. Take the example of Robbie Hart, one of our senior referees. And, I beg of you, if referee you be, don't follow it.

I was at Selhurst Park when he expelled the Wimbledon left-back, Alan Kimble, playing against Manchester United, in absurd circumstances. He had quite properly booked Kimble for an earlier foul. Then, when Kimble encroached on a United corner, he made that a second bookable offence, and sent him off!

I wrote in *WORLD SOCCER* at the time that he'd shown a ludicrous lack of discretion. Any argument Hart might have advanced in his own favour went to the winds a few weeks later when he refereed the derby match at Highbury between Arsenal and Tottenham.

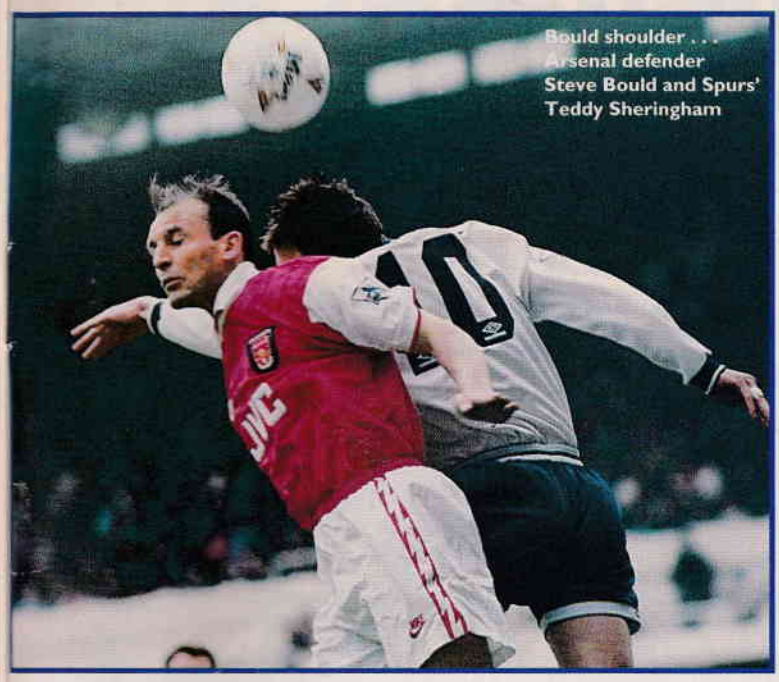
Steve Bould, the big Arsenal centre-back, who had already talked his way out of the Cup-winners Cup Final (sustained protests and a yellow card in Genoa) was booked, properly again, by Hart for a dreadful bodycheck on Nick Barmby. Later in the game, Bould scythed down Teddy Sheringham, a foul which made Kimble's encroachment look even more negligible in comparison.

Millions of television viewers saw Hart's hand go straight to his pocket for what seemed the inevitable booking; and expulsion. Then he relented, left his pocket alone, and Bould stayed on.

There's more to come. On the brink of handling the 1995 FA Cup Final, Gerald Ashby, interviewed on radio,

His own man . . . FA Cup Final referee Gerald Ashby

'Gerald Ashby, interviewed on radio, announced that he'd be refereeing the FA Cup Final in Gerald Ashby's style. Beware, always, the man who refers to himself in the third person! Not in FIFA's style, please note, not in the FA's . . . but in his own style'



Bould shoulder . . . Arsenal defender Steve Bould and Spurs' Teddy Sheringham

announced that he'd be refereeing it in . . . Gerald Ashby's style. Beware, always, the man who refers to himself in the third person! Not in FIFA's style, please note, not in the FA's style . . . but in his own style.

Heaven help us all if that was what we saw in the first half at Wembley, and if other referees choose to follow it. Ashby was a wretched referee, ludicrously tolerant of unpleasant fouls, not least the one by United's Gary Neville, which eventually obliged Paul Rideout, the Everton goalscorer, to quit the match.

Anomalies and paradoxes are everywhere.

Juventus v Parma, in Milan; second leg of the UEFA Cup Final. Gianluca Vialli leaves not only his stamp on the season, but stamps on his opponent, Susic. And stays on the field. So, in a Bolton-Wolves promotion play-off, does Bolton's Scottish centre-forward, John McGinlay, after felling Wolves' Irish striker, David Kelly, with a left hook.

On the same Sunday in Italy, the bald referee Collina, who himself has had his dubious days this season, properly sends off the promising young Genoa defender Galante for handling on the line, besides awarding a penalty.

But down in Rome, to the fury of Lazio, Inter's keeper Pagliuca is allowed by referee Treossi to remain, after ruthlessly bringing down Signori in full flight.

Signori converts the penalty, double jeopardy is avoided, but under the present rules, Lazio had every reason to seethe.

Liverpool's face saver

AS ONE who criticised the way Liverpool strolled through the season after their League Cup Final win over Bolton had guaranteed a UEFA Cup place, I'd be happy to think I was partially responsible for an angry Liverpool at last taking their responsibilities seriously, and bravely beating Blackburn in their very last League match.

I was more distressed at Liverpool's strolling because I do believe they are potentially the best team in England. Steve McManaman is one of our few truly entertaining and accomplished forwards. Fowler and Redknapp are full of promise.

But if teams don't take matters seriously at the end of a season, or any other time, come to that, they falsify the competition.

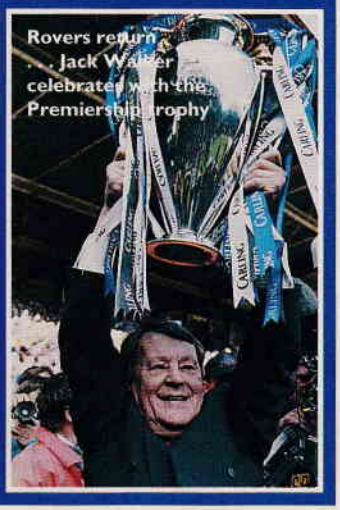
Final day showdown . . . Blackburn's Sherwood against Clough and Barnes of Liverpool

Blackburn's hollow victory

WAS I the only one who stayed dry-eyed and quite unmoved when Kenny Dalglish fell touchingly into Ronnie Moran's arms at the end of the game at Liverpool which Blackburn Rovers had lost, though they still won the title?

They might give a hearty vote of thanks to United's Alex Ferguson for his inept decision to leave Mark Hughes out of the starting line-up at West Ham, to bring him on only at half-time. But then, dropping Hughes might almost be listed as one of Ferguson's recreations.

Blackburn? They'll flourish in Europe only if Jack Walker buys creative talent.



Rovers return . . . Jack Walker celebrates with the Premiership trophy

MAHOOD

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of *The Football Grounds of Great Britain* and *The Football Grounds of Europe*

VILLA PARK

Capacity
40, 100 all-seated
Opened
April 17 1897, redeveloped 1914, 1940 and 1990-95.
Location
In Aston, a suburb of Birmingham, next to a park dominated by a 17th Century mansion.

A VENUE for more FA Cup semi-finals than any other ground, for the 1966 World Cup, and now for the 1996 European Championships. Okay, I admit it. This is where I watch my football, and have done since 1962 so of course I love the place. Despite £17 million worth of redevelopment since 1990, the ornate, red brick 1922 main stand, an evocative reminder of Villa's noble past, is still the centrepiece, with the club's name picked out in gold lettering against a maroon mosaic background. But this gem is now dwarfed by three modern stands, all completely different designs (remember this is England), the latest of which is the massive new Holte End, Britain's largest end stand. This holds 13,462 on two tiers and has an 'instant heritage' brick facade which nobly tries to copy the old stand and, rather like the current team, just goes wide of the target.
WORLD SOCCER rating 8 (out of 10)

VIENNA

Name
Ernst Happel Stadion (aka Prater or Wiener Stadion)
Capacity
48,868 all-seated
Opened
1931, extended 1956, modernised 1984-86
Location
in the Prater Park, on the banks of the Danube – cue Harry Lime music and shots of the ferris wheel.

VENUE for the Ajax-Milan European Capitalists, sorry Champions, Cup Final, this wonderful stadium was actually built as a people's sporting palace during Red Vienna's brief period of socialist rule. Since then it has been transformed in 1985–86 by the addition of a brilliantly engineered roof which sits above the three-tier structure and consists of two elliptical rings, the inner one being suspended from the outer one. 'So what!' you might say, but really, it is damn clever and means that everyone stays dry and in an environment which, despite the track, still feels quite enclosed. UEFA certainly seem to like it. May's final was the third in nine years.
WORLD SOCCER rating 8 (out of 10)
ALSO IN VIENNA: Like any self-respecting Mitteleuropa capital, Vienna is a groundhopper's dream. Check out the suburban grounds of Rapide, Austria, Wiener Sportklub and the vintage Hohe Warte, which once held 85,000, most of them on a huge, slippery embankment.

VELODROME

Name Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Capacity 41,336
Opened 13 June 1937 for 1938 World Cup, refurbished 1970 and for the 1984 European Championship finals.

NEVER mind OM going into receivership and being refused promotion, until May it was touch and go whether the local authorities would provide the £40million needed to enlarge the stadium for the 1998 World Cup. Various local politicians argued that 50,000 seats would be enough, which is probably true, except that France's bid promised FIFA two venues of at least 60,000, of which Marseille must be one. Certainly the old Stade needs a refit. Seats put on the cycle track offer terrible sightlines, while the two 1930s side stands, despite being tarted up by Tapie, need complete refurbishment and new roofs. No decisions have been made yet as to designs, and no doubt there will be the usual fuss over architects and contractors, and of course over a new name for Stade, which has not been a velodrome for 25 years. But this is the powerhouse of French football support so at least, unlike the proposed Grand Stade in Paris, an audience is guaranteed.
WORLD SOCCER rating 6 (out of 10)

VALENCIA

Name Campo de Mestella (formerly Estadio Luis Casanova)
Capacity 46,334 (35,334 seats)
Opened 20 May 1923, rebuilt 1940, extended 1978

A CLASSIC, post-war Spanish bowl, right in the middle of town and with an extraordinary cantilevered roof hanging over the main stand, dating from 1954. Opposite is the standard 'anfiteatro' – the Spanish equivalent of the Kop – a steep slab of uncovered teracing lined by floodlights at the rear. To add more seats in 1978, instead of building up they dug down and lowered the pitch, bringing the touchlines to within a few feet of its glowing white seats. Spain may have a few more modern and sophisticated venues nowadays (San Sebastian and Santander, for example), but for the concrete, cavernous intensity of the stadium-as-bullring on balmy autumn Sundays, Valencia takes some beating.
WORLD SOCCER rating 8 (out of 10)

next month

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